

09/101833

12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 JUL 1998

BOX PCT  
Page 1 of 3

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**REQUEST FOR FILING NATIONAL PHASE OF**  
**PCT APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495**

To: The Commissioner of Patents  
 and Trademarks  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

(Our Deposit Account No. 03-3975

(Our Order No. 41226 / 255101

C# / M#

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
 DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

Atty. Dkt. PM 255101 / 7012P-U

M# / Client Ref.

From: Pillsbury Madison & Sutro LLP, IP Group

Date: July 17, 1998

This is a **REQUEST** for **FILING** a PCT/USA National Phase Application based on:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. International Application<br><u>PCT/ JP97 / 04168</u><br>↑ country code | 2. International Filing Date<br><u>14 November 1997</u><br>Day MONTH Year | 3. Earliest Priority Date Claimed<br><u>20 November 1996</u><br>Day MONTH Year<br>(use item 2 if no earlier priority) |
|--|---|---|
4. Measured from the earliest priority date in item 3, this PCT/USA National Phase Application Request is being filed within:
- (a) ☒ 20 months from above item 3 date    (b) ☐ 30 months from above item 3 date,
- (c) Therefore, the due date (unextendable) is July 17, 1998.
5. Title of Invention LASER MACHINING APPARATUS AND APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A MULTILAYERED PRINTED WIRING BOARD
6. Inventor(s) HIRAMATSU, Yasuji

Applicant herewith submits the following under 35 U.S.C. 371 to effect filing:

7. ☒ Please immediately start national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
8. ☐ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is transmitted herewith (file if in English but, if in foreign language, file only if not transmitted to PTO by the International Bureau) including:
- a. ☐ Request;
- b. ☐ Abstract;
- c.        pgs. Spec. and Claims;
- d.        sheet(s) Drawing which are ☐ informal ☐ formal of size ☐ A4 ☐ 13" ☐ 14"
9. ☒ A copy of the International Application has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
10. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
- a. ☒ is transmitted herewith including: (1) ☐ Request; (2) ☒ Abstract;
- (3) 66 pgs. Spec. and Claims;
- (4) 17 sheet(s) Drawing which are:
- ☐ informal ☒ formal of size ☒ A4 ☐ 11"
- b. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in English.
- c. ☐ is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.
- d. ☐ Translation verification attached (not required now).
11. ☒ PLEASE AMEND the specification before its first line by inserting as a separate paragraph:
- a. ☒ --This application is the national phase of international application PCT/ JP97 / 04168, filed November 14, 1997 which designated the U.S.--
- b. ☐ --This application also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/      , filed       --

12. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., **before 18th month from first priority date above in item 3, are transmitted herewith (file if in English but, if in foreign language, file only if not transmitted by the International Bureau) including:**
13. ☒ PCT Article 19 claim amendments (if any) have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
14. ☐ Translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., of claim amendments made before 18th month, **is attached (required by 20th month from the date in item 3 if box 4(a) above is X'd, or 30th month if box 4(b) is X'd, or else amendments will be considered cancelled).**

15. **A declaration of the inventor** (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))
- a. ☐ is submitted herewith ☐ Original ☐ Facsimile/Copy
- b. ☒ is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.

16. **An International Search Report (ISR):**
- a. Was prepared by ☐ European Patent Office ☐ Japanese Patent Office ☐ Other
- b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau to PTO.
- c. ☐ copy herewith (\_\_\_\_ pg(s).) ☐ plus Annex of family members (\_\_\_\_ pg(s).).

**International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER):**

- a. ☒ has been transmitted (if this letter is filed after 28 months from date in item 3) in English by the International Bureau with Annexes (if any) in original language.
- b. ☐ copy herewith in English
- c.1 ☐ IPER Annex(es) in original language ("Annexes" are amendments made to claims/spec/drawings during Examination) including attached amended:
- c.2 ☐ Specification/claim pages # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Drawing Sheets # \_\_\_\_\_
- c.3 ☐ Which resulted in cancellation of pages # \_\_\_\_\_ claims # \_\_\_\_\_ Dwg Sheets # \_\_\_\_\_
- d. ☐ Translation of Annex(es) to IPER **(required by 30th month due date, or else annexed amendments will be considered cancelled).**

**Information Disclosure Statement including:**

- a. ☐ Attached Form PTO-1449 listing documents
- b. ☐ Attached copies of documents listed on Form PTO-1449
- c. ☒ A concise explanation of relevance of ISR references is given in the ISR.

19. ☐ **Assignment** document and Cover Sheet for recording are attached. Please mail the recorded assignment document back to the person whose signature, name and address appear at the end of this letter.

20. ☐ Copy of Power to IA agent.

21. ☐ **Drawings:** \_\_\_\_ sheet(s) per set: ☐ 1 set informal; ☐ Formal of size ☐ A4 ☐ 11"

22. ☐ \_\_\_\_ (No.) **Verified Statement(s)** establishing "small entity" status under Rules 9 & 27

23. **Priority** is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 based on the priority claim and the certified copy, both filed in the International Application during the international stage based on the filing in (country) JAPAN of:

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
(1) <u>08-326091</u>	<u>Nov. 20, 1996</u>	(4) <u>08-358911</u>	<u>Dec. 27, 1996</u>
(2) <u>08-326092</u>	<u>Nov. 20, 1996</u>	(5) _____	_____
(3) <u>08-358910</u>	<u>Dec. 27, 1996</u>	(6) _____	_____

- a. ☒ See Form PCT/IB/304 sent to US/DO with copy of priority documents. If copy has not been received, please proceed promptly to obtain same from the IB.
- b. ☐ Copy of Form PCT/IB/304 attached.

24. Attached:

25. **Preliminary Amendment:**25.5 Per item 17.c3, **cancel original** pages # \_\_\_\_\_, claims # \_\_\_\_\_, Drawing Sheets # \_\_\_\_\_26. **Calculation of the U.S. National Fee (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1)) and other fees is as follows:**based on amended claim(s) per above item(s) ☐ 12, ☐ 14, ☐ 17, ☐ 25 ☐ 25.5 (hilité)

TOTAL EFFECTIVE CLAIMS	<u>33</u>	- 20	<u>13</u>	x	Large/Small Entity	\$ 22/\$11	= \$	_____	(966/967)
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	<u>15</u>	- 3	<u>12</u>	x	\$ 82/\$41	= \$	_____	_____	(964/965)

\*If answer &lt;0, enter "0"

If any proper (ignore improper) MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM is present, ----- add \$270/\$135 + \_\_\_\_\_ (968/969)

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(4)): → → → → → **BASIC FEE REQUIRED, NOW** → ↓A. If country code letters in item 1 are not "US", "BR", "BB", "TT", "MX", "IL" or "NZ" ↓

See item 16 re:

1. Search Report was not prepared by EPO or JPO ----- add \$1070/\$535 + \_\_\_\_\_ (960/961)
2. Search Report was prepared by EPO or JPO ----- add \$930/\$465 + 930.00 (970/971)

**SKIP B, C, D AND E UNLESS country code letters in item 1 are "US", "BR", "BB", "TT", "MX", "IL" or "NZ"**

27. ~~(X)~~ ~~(only)~~ ~~(one)~~ ~~(of)~~ ~~(these)~~ ~~(4)~~ ~~(boxes)~~ → ☐ B. If neither international search fee nor international preliminary examination fee was paid to USPTO, ----- add \$1070/\$535 + \_\_\_\_\_ (960/961)
- ☐ C. If international search fee was paid to USPTO but not international preliminary examination fee, ----- add \$790/\$395 + \_\_\_\_\_ (958/959)
- ☐ D. If international preliminary examination fee was paid to USPTO ----- add \$720/\$360 + \_\_\_\_\_ (956/957)
- ☐ E. If international preliminary examination fee was paid to USPTO and Rules 492(a)(4) and 496(b) satisfied, ----- add \$98/\$49 + \_\_\_\_\_ (962/963)

**SUBTOTAL = \$ 930.00**

28. If Assignment box 19 above is X'd, add Assignment Recording fee of ----- \$40.00 + \_\_\_\_\_ (581)

29. Attached is a check to cover the ----- **TOTAL FEES \$ 930.00**

**CHARGE STATEMENT:** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any missing or insufficient fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under Rules 16-18 and 492 (missing or insufficient fee only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting Official document under Rule 20, or credit any overpayment, to our Account/Order Nos. shown in the heading hereof for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

**This CHARGE STATEMENT does not authorize charge of the issue fee until/unless an issue fee transmittal form is filed.**

**Pillsbury Madison & Sutro LLP**  
**Intellectual Property Group**

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Sig: Tel.: (202) 861- 3070**NOTE:** File in duplicate with 2 postcard receipts (PAT-103) & attachments.

LASER MACHINING APPARATUS, AND APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
MANUFACTURING A MULTILAYERED PRINTED WIRING BOARD

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus and method and a laser processing apparatus, particularly to a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus and method to form fine holes at a low cost and a laser processing apparatus.

Description of Related Art

A build-up multilayer wiring board alternately has interlayer resin insulators and conductive circuit layers, provides holes to the interlayer resin insulator layers and then electrically connects the upper layers and lower layers by forming conductive films at the wall surface of these holes.

A hole (via hole) of the interlayer resin insulating layer is generally formed through the exposure and developing process by giving photosensitive property to the interlayer resin.

However, the diameter of these via holes on the multilayer printed wiring board is almost 100  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and it is expected to develop the technology to form the via hole having still smaller diameter. Because of such requirement, employment of the processing method utilizing the laser beam for the boring of the build-up multilayer wiring board is now investigated.

A technology using laser for the boring is proposed, for example, in the Japanese Published Examined Patent No. HEI 3-54884. In this technology, a light beam from the laser source

is received by a processing head for deflection. Thereby the laser beam is irradiated to a predetermined resin insulator to form a through hole.

However, a multilayer wiring board has via holes in one  
5 layer in the number ranging from several hundreds to several  
tens of hundred and is also required to have higher positional  
accuracy because the via holes must be electrically connected  
with conductive circuits of the lower layer. Therefore, it has  
been required to enable the positioning of laser with higher  
10 accuracy in order to realize mass-production of the multilayer  
printed wiring board.

Namely, it is required to accurately measure the  
substrate position to embody the automatic control for mass  
production.

15 As a method of measuring the substrate position, an  
ordinary method has been introduced in which a positioning mark  
provided on the substrate is read with a camera to measure the  
position.

However, in the case of a multilayer printed wiring board,  
20 the positioning marks are often formed on a lower layer of the  
resin layer to be eliminated by a laser beam and if it is  
attempted to read the light beam reflected from the positioning  
mark under the resin layer, it is sometimes difficult to  
accurately read the reflected beam through reflection by the  
25 resin layer.

Therefore, the inventors of the present invention has  
proposed, as a method of accurately reading the positioning mark,  
to read the positioning mark from a silhouette by making use  
of the transmitting light beam of the light applied to the

multilayer printed wiring board from the lower side.

However, since the multilayer printed wiring board is placed on an X-Y table, when the light is applied to the substrate from the lower side, it is thought that the table  
5 itself or a driver motor for driving the table will interfere the application of light beam.

Moreover, since the substrate is always moving by means of the X-Y table, it is also difficult to always apply the light beam from the lower side of the positioning mark which moves  
10 in combination with the X-Y table. Moreover, a problem like this arises not only in the multilayer printed wiring board but also in automatic laser process.

On the other hand, in order to bore the via holes and through holes of the multilayer printed wiring board, a laser  
15 beam in such a wavelength as generating heat in the interlayer resin must be used and the CO<sub>2</sub> laser or excimer laser are considered as such laser source. The excimer laser has the wavelength as short as 248 nm in KrF, 308 nm in XeCL and 193 nm in ArF are and is suitable for formation of a small diameter  
20 via hole.

However, the excimer laser results in rise of product cost, when it is introduced into the industrial use, because the apparatus cost becomes high, and further, parts such as lens are easily deteriorated because of short wavelength and these  
25 parts must be replaced frequently, and the expensive excimer gas must be supplemented and replaced within a short period.

Regarding this point, the CO<sub>2</sub> laser having a relatively longer wavelength is rather suitable for industrial use because not only output level is high and the apparatus cost is low but

also repair of lens, for example, is not required and supplement of CO<sub>2</sub> laser can be realized at a low price, however when laser beam output is raised to form a deeper hole, hole diameter of via hole becomes larger. In addition, the hole in diameter of 100μm which is about 10 times the wavelength (10.6 μm) can be bored easily but the hole in diameter of 50 μm or less which is about 5 times the wavelength is bored with considerable difficulty.

Such problem is generated also when the CO<sub>2</sub> laser is used as the laser source for processing, in addition to the multilayer printed wiring board.

Moreover, in the manufacturing apparatus of a multilayer printed wiring board of the related art, since several thousands to several tens of thousand via holes are bored in the multilayer printed wiring board, a longer time has been required to bore the holes of only one layer with the laser and the processing time becomes very long when such laser process is repeated for multiple layers.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method of manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board which, while securing the position accuracy of via holes, bore hundreds or thousands of holes by use of laser beam radiation.

It is therefore another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method of manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board which can form via holes of ultra-fine diameter at a low cost and also provide a laser processing apparatus which can form holes of ultra-fine diameter.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a laser processing apparatus, an apparatus and a method of manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board which can read accurately the positioning marks.

5 It is further another object of the present invention to provide a laser processing apparatus which can reduce the processing time.

Moreover, it is still further another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method of  
10 manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board which can reduce the time required to form the via holes of a built-up type multilayer printed wiring board.

#### DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

15 In order to attain the objects explained above, an apparatus of manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board of claim 1 is characterized from the technical viewpoint that:

it is used for processing a multilayer printed wiring board having an interlayer resin insulator;

20 it comprises a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam toward the X-Y directions, a camera to read the positioning marks of the multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting  
25 the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result, and an arithmetic operating section;

the processing data is input from the input section and this data is then stored in the memory section;



the positions of the positioning marks of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y table is measured with the camera;

the processing data input on the basis of the measured  
5 position is corrected to generate the data to drive the scanning head and the X-Y table in the arithmetic operating section and this driver data is then stored in the memory section; and

the drive data is read from the memory section in the control section and the laser beam is radiated to the multilayer  
10 printed wiring board by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head to form the holes by eliminating the interlayer resin layer.

In order to attain the objects described above, the method of manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board of claim 4  
15 is characterized from the technical view point in comprising the steps of:

forming the positioning marks and interlayer insulating layer on the multilayer printed wiring board;

placing the multilayer printed wiring board having formed  
20 the positioning marks on the X-Y table of the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus comprising the processing laser source, the scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions, the camera for reading the positioning marks on the multilayer printed wiring board, the  
25 X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, the input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, the memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and the arithmetic operating section and also inputting the processing

data to this apparatus;

measuring the positions of the positioning marks on the multilayer printed wiring board with the camera, correcting the input processing data based on the measured positions of the positioning marks in the arithmetic operating section to  
5 generate the data for driving the scanning head and X-Y table and storing this drive data to the memory section; and

reading the drive data from the memory section in the control section radiating the laser beam to the multilayer  
10 printed wiring board by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head to eliminate the interlayer resin layer in order to form the holes.

In the present invention, since position of the positioning mark is measured with a camera to actually measure  
15 the position of the substrate by forming in advance the positioning mark at the predetermined position of the multilayer printed wiring board, the position of the substrate is measured, and deviation of the substrate position is corrected from the input processing data and actually measured  
20 value of the substrate to generate the scanning head and X-Y table drive data. Thereby, the scanning head and the X-Y table are driven depending on this drive data. As a result, boring of many via holes of several hundreds to several tens of hundred can be realized while keeping the higher positional  
25 accuracy.

In the present invention, it is desirable that the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board is formed of a metal conductor. It is because when the mark is read with the beam reflected from the positioning mark, a metal

assures a higher reflectivity and it may be easily read by the camera. Moreover, in the case where the positioning mark is read with the transmitting light beam, since the metal does not transmit the light beam, the positioning mark can be recognized  
5 by a silhouette and can easily be read by the camera.

Moreover, it is also desirable that the positioning mark is formed simultaneously with a conductive circuit, because it is not required, in this case, to additionally provide the process to form the positioning mark.

10 Specifically, at the time of forming a conductor pattern by etching a copper clad laminated plate, the positioning marks may be formed. Moreover, a plating resist is provided at the conductor circuit and the positioning mark non-forming area and thereby the conductive circuit and the positioning mark can be  
15 formed simultaneously by the plating.

As explained above, when the conductor circuit and positioning mark are formed simultaneously, it is desirable to use an interlayer resin insulator having a light transmissivity because the positioning mark is covered with the interlayer  
20 resin insulator.

The inventors of the present invention have made efforts to investigation to find a cause of increase in diameter of the via holes, etc. As a result, it has been proved that the CO<sub>2</sub> laser has the wavelength as long as 10.6  $\mu\text{m}$ , the spot diameter  
25 becomes large when the light is focused due to the influence of diffraction of laser beam and when an output is increased, the hole diameter becomes larger than the preset value.

Therefore, it has also been found that diffraction of laser beam can be controlled and the spot diameter when the light

beam is focused can be set as small as possible to form the via hole having the small diameter when the laser beam has a longer wavelength.

The present invention has been proposed based on such  
5 finding and thereby the apparatus for manufacturing the multilayer printed wiring board described in claim 5 discloses a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus comprising a CO<sub>2</sub> laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of the laser beam to the X-Y directions or an X-Y  
10 table for displacing the position of the multilayer printed wiring board and is characterized in the technical view point by that the laser beam oscillated from the CO<sub>2</sub> laser source is given the shortened wavelength by a harmonic wave generating means.

Moreover, the multilayer printed wiring board  
15 manufacturing apparatus described in claim 6 discloses a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, a harmonic wave generating means for converting the laser beam oscillated from  
20 the processing laser source to a shortened wavelength laser beam in the second harmonic wave, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of the laser beam toward the X-Y directions or an X-Y table for displacing the position of the multilayer printed wiring board and is also characterized from the technical view  
25 point by that the wavelength of the processing laser source is ranged from 720 nm or less to the shortest wavelength or more of the laser source or from 6000 nm or more to the maximum wavelength or less of the laser source.

Moreover, the multilayer printed wiring board described

in claim 7 comprises:

a CO<sub>2</sub> laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the target mark on the multilayer printed wiring board,  
5 an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section in order to:

10 input the processing data from the input section to store it to the memory section;

measure, with the camera, the position of the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y table;

generate, in the arithmetic operating section, the data  
15 for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table from the measured position and the input processing data and then store this data to the memory section;

read, in the control section, the drive data from the memory section and radiate the laser beam to the multilayer  
20 printed wiring board by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head to eliminate the interlayer resin layer in order to form the hole; and is also characterized in the technical view point by that the laser beam oscillated from the CO<sub>2</sub> laser source is converted to the shortened wavelength beam in the  
25 second harmonic wavelength by the harmonic wave generating means.

Moreover, the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method described in claims 10 discloses a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method using a

manufacturing apparatus comprising a CO<sub>2</sub> laser source, a harmonic wave generator for converting the laser beam from the CO<sub>2</sub> laser source to the shortened wavelength in second harmonic wave, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y direction, a camera for reading the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board and an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board and is characterized in the technical view point in comprising the steps of:

measuring the position of the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board having the interlayer resin insulator placed on the X-Y table;

generating the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table from the measured position and the processing data; and

eliminating the interlayer resin layer and forming holes by controlling the Y-Y table and the scanning head based on the drive data and radiating the shortened wavelength laser beam in the second harmonic wave from the harmonic wave generator to the multilayer printed wiring board.

The present invention converts the laser beam from the laser source to the shortened wavelength wave by the harmonic wave generating means to control the diffraction of laser beam and also can reduce the spot diameter of laser beam, when the laser beam is focused, by making small the limit value of the focusing limit. As a result, when an output of the laser beam is raised to form a deeper hole, the hole diameter is not widened. Therefore, the via hole and small diameter hole can also be formed.

As the laser source explained above, the CO<sub>2</sub> gas is

desirable because the apparatus is low price and provides an high output and assures also a lower running cost.

As the harmonic wave generating means, a waveguide or a bulk of non-linear optical crystal may be used.

5 Specifically, a means for reflecting the laser beam from the CO<sub>2</sub> laser source and for transmitting the harmonic generated by non-linear optical crystal is provided in the harmonic wave output side of the non-linear optical crystal. The laser beam of the light source wavelength is reflected and the shortened  
10 wavelength laser beam is transmitted in direct. Thereby, the processing is executed only by the shortened wavelength laser beam.

As the means for reflecting the laser beam from the processing laser source and transmitting the harmonic generated  
15 by the non-linear optical crystal, a thin film (coating), for example, of sodium fluoride is formed on the surface of collimator lens.

Here, it is recommended to provide the function for totally transmitting the laser beam from the processing laser  
20 source on the incident side of the non-linear optical crystal, namely in the processing laser source side for the purpose of improving the input and output efficiency of light beam.

On the incident side of the non-linear optical crystal, the thin film of sodium fluoride and silicon, etc. in which the  
25 number of layers and thickness are adjusted is formed at the surface of the condenser lens and the end face of the non-linear optical crystal as the means for giving the function to totally transmit the laser beam from the processing laser source.

Moreover, it is also allowed that the non-linear optical

crystal is provided within the laser source and the function for reflecting a part of the laser beam of the light source wavelength is provided on the incident side of the non-linear optical crystal or a resonator is formed within the processing  
5 laser source using a half-mirror. It is because the resonator type harmonic wave generator assures high conversion efficiency and also practical use and moreover higher conversion efficiency can also be obtained by giving a higher output to non-linear optical crystal.

10 As the non-linear optical crystal, tellurium is preferable. The CO<sub>2</sub> laser which is optimum as the laser source assures the far infrared band and realizes the phase matching of the wavelength of this band.

15 When tellurium is used, the cutting angle for the c-axis is determined to  $\theta = 14.3^\circ$  in order to realize the phase matching for the CO<sub>2</sub> laser.

20 Wavelength of the CO<sub>2</sub> laser is 10.6 $\mu$ m and the second harmonic generated has the wavelength of 5.3 $\mu$ m. Therefore, the hole in diameter of 50 $\mu$ m which is about 10 time the second harmonic can easily be formed.

Here, in order to bore the hole on the interlayer resin insulator, wavelength must be 360 nm or less or 3000 nm or more. Therefore, the wavelength of the processing laser source assuring shortened wavelength of the second harmonic wave must  
25 be 720 nm or less or 6000 nm or more.

The present invention is particularly effective to form the hole where the aspect ratio (depth of hole/diameter of hole) is 1.5 or less.

In order to attain the object explained above, the



multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus described in claim 13 is characterized in the technical viewpoint by that:

5 it is used for processing the multilayer printed wiring board having the interlayer resin insulator;

10 it comprises a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section; and

15 the X-Y table is provided with the embedded light source at the area corresponding to the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board.

Moreover, the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus described in claim 14 is characterized in the technical viewpoint by that:

20 it is used for processing the multilayer printed wiring board having an interlayer resin insulator;

25 it comprises a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of the laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section;

the X-Y table is provided with an embedded light source at the area corresponding to the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board;

the processing data is input from the input section and  
5 it is then stored in the memory section;

a silhouette, which is formed when the light beam from the light source of the X-Y table is shielded by the positioning mark, is read by the camera and the position of the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y  
10 table is measured;

the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table is generated from the measured position and the input processing data in the arithmetic operating section and this drive data is then stored in the memory section; and

15 the drive data is read from the memory section in the control section to control the X-Y table and the scanning head and the laser beam is then radiated to the multilayer printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer in order to form a hole.

20 In order to attain the object described above, the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method described in claim 16 discloses the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method utilizing a manufacturing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, a scanning head for  
25 deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board and an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board and also providing the light source embedded to the area corresponding to the positioning mark of

the multilayer printed wiring board and is characterized in the technical viewpoint by comprising the steps of:

forming the positioning mark and interlayer resin insulator on the multilayer printed wiring board;

5 inputting the processing data to the manufacturing apparatus;

reading a silhouette, with the camera, which is formed when the light beam from the light source of the X-Y table is shielded by the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board and measuring the position of the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board;

generating the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table from the measured position and the input processing data; and

15 radiating the laser beam to the multilayer printed wiring board by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head on the basis of the drive data to eliminate the interlayer resin layer in view of forming the hole.

The laser processing apparatus described in claim 19 is characterized in the technical viewpoint by comprising a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of the laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning mark of a work piece to be processed, an X-Y table for placing the work piece to be processed, an input section for inputting the processing data of the work piece to be processed, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section and is also characterized in providing a light source at the area of the X-Y table corresponding to the positioning

mark of the work piece to be processed.

The inventors of the present invention have completed the present invention, as a result of investigation, by finding that the light beam can be always applied from the lower side of the positioning mark, without any interference of the X-Y table  
5 itself or the drive motor, by embedding the light source at the position corresponding to the positioning mark of the X-Y table.

In the present invention, when a work piece to be processed such as a multilayer printed wiring board is placed  
10 on the X-Y table, since the light source is embedded to the area corresponding to the position mark of the work piece to be processed such as the multilayer printed wiring board, the positioning mark is recognized as a silhouette because the light from the light source is shielded by the positioning mark of  
15 the work piece to be processed such as the multilayer printed wiring board and it is then read by the camera. This silhouette is not influenced by the gloss of a resin layer even when the positioning mark is provided at the lower layer of the resin layer to be eliminated by the laser. Moreover, the since the  
20 light source is embedded in the X-Y table itself, the light source is never shielded by the X-Y table or the drive motor, and since the light source moves together with the X-Y table, the light can always be applied from the lower side of the positioning mark and the positioning mark can always be  
25 recognized even when the X-Y table moves.

In addition, since it is enough that the light source radiates only the positioning mark area, the light source area and amount of light can be reduced and thereby the substrate is never warped and the work piece such as substrate is never

changed in size by the heat from the light source.

Moreover, since the light source area can be reduced, a groove and a hole can be provided to the X-Y table for the purpose of vacuum absorption and the substrate can surely be fixed.

5 As the light source used in the present invention, an LED (Light Emitting Diode), a laser source, a fluorescent light or a small size bulb may be listed. The LED is most preferable because it is small and light, therefore it does not increase an inertia of the X-Y table, assuredly realizing a small amount  
10 of heat generation and high luminance. In addition, it is suitable for mass-production of the printed wiring board because it assures a longer exchange time. As the color of light emitted by this LED, green which may be recognized by CCD as the image pickup element of camera is preferable.

15 As a structure of the light source, an aperture is provided to the X-Y table and the light source such as LED and a socket to be connected to the light source are embedded in this aperture. The socket is connected to the cable wired at the inside or rear surface of the X-Y table and this cable is  
20 then connected to the external power supply.

A rectangular shape is the most preferable for the aperture. The positioning mark is formed for each insulator layer and therefore these are never overlapped with each other. Moreover, the apertures are formed in lateral on a line while  
25 the positioning mark of each layer is deviated. Since the aperture is formed in the rectangular shape, the positioning mark of each layer can be radiated simultaneously with the light beam.

In the present invention, since the positioning mark is

formed in advance at the predetermined position of the work piece such as multilayer printed wiring board, the position of the work piece such as substrate is measured actually by measuring the position of silhouette of the positioning mark with a camera, the data for driving the galvano-mirror and X-Y table is generated to compensate for deviation of the substrate position from the input processing data and the actually-measured value of the substrate position and the galvano-mirror and X-Y table are driven depending on this drive data. Thereby, it is possible to realize the boring of many via holes ranging from several hundreds to several tens of hundred while keeping the higher positional accuracy.

In the present invention, it is preferable that the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board is made of a metal conductor. Since a metal does not transmit the light beam, the positioning mark can be recognized by a silhouette and it can easily be read with the camera.

Moreover, the positioning mark is preferably formed simultaneously with the conductive circuit because it is not required, in this case, to additionally provide the positioning mark forming process.

At the time of forming the positioning mark on the multilayer printed wiring board, it is desirable that the positioning mark of the upper layer is deviated from the positioning mark of the lower layer. Thereby, the silhouette of the positioning mark of the upper layer is never overlapped on the positioning mark of the lower layer.

Specifically, the positioning mark can be formed on the occasion of forming the conductor pattern by etching the copper

clad laminated plate. Moreover, a plating resist is provided in advance on the area where the conductive circuit and positioning mark are not provided and thereby the conductive circuit and positioning mark can be formed simultaneously through the plating process.

When the conductive circuit and positioning mark are formed simultaneously, the positioning mark is covered with the interlayer resin insulator. Therefore it is preferable to use a material having the light transmitting property as the interlayer resin insulator. In addition, it is also preferable to use a material having the light transmitting property for the substrate itself on which the interlayer resin insulator is formed.

In order to attain the object described above, the laser processing apparatus described in claim 20 discloses laser processing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions and an X-Y table for placing the work piece to process the work piece with a laser beam by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head, characterized in the technical viewpoint by providing at least two or more scanning heads and a beam splitter between the processing laser source and an optical path of the scanning head to supply the laser beam to each scanning head by distributing the laser beam.

Moreover, the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus described in claim 21 discloses, in order to attain the object explained above, a multilayer printed wiring board which is used for processing a multilayer printed wiring board having an interlayer resin insulator and comprises

a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to X-Y directions, a camera for reading the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input  
5 section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section to input the processing data from the input section, stores this data to the memory section,  
10 measures the position of target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y table, generates the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table from the measured position and the input processing data and stores this drive data to the memory section in the arithmetic operating section,  
15 reads the drive data from the memory section and radiates the laser beam to the multilayer printed wiring board by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head in the control section to eliminate the interlayer resin layer and form the via hole, and this multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus  
20 is also characterized in the technical viewpoint by providing at least two or more scanning heads and a beam splitter between the processing laser source and an optical path of the scanning heads to supply the laser beam to each scanning head by distributing the laser beam with the beam splitter.

25 Moreover, the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method described in claim 25 discloses a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

forming the target mark on the multilayer printed wiring



board having the interlayer resin insulator;

placing the multilayer printed wiring board having formed the target mark on the X-Y table of the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, at least two or more scanning heads for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section and then inputting the processing data to this apparatus;

measuring, in the arithmetic operating section, the position of the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board with the camera, generating the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table from the measured position and the input processing data and storing this drive data in the memory section; and

reading the drive data from the memory section in the control section and radiating the laser beam to the multilayer printed wiring board by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form the via hole; and

this method is characterized in the technical viewpoint by distributing the laser beam with a beam splitter provided between the processing laser source and an optical path of the scanning head to supply the laser beam to two or more scanning heads.

In the laser processing apparatus described in claim 20, the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus described in claim 21 and the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method described in claim 25, since the laser beam is distributed by the beam splitter to supply the beam to a plurality of scanning heads even when only one laser source is provided, the boring velocity can be improved even when the apparatus size is not increased and thereby low cost laser boring can be realized. In addition, in the apparatus described in claims 20, 21 and in the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method described in claim 25, processing and boring can be conducted to only one work piece (multilayer printed wiring board) with two or more scanning heads. In this case, the processing and boring time of the work piece (multilayer printed wiring board) can be shortened and moreover the X-Y table area can be reduced to that of only one work piece (multilayer printed wiring board), thereby not resulting in increase in size of the apparatus as a whole.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, when a via hole is not formed with the other scanning head on the occasion of forming a via hole with the laser beam via one scanning head, the other scanning head scans the outside of the processing area of the multilayer printed wiring board with the laser beam. Therefore, it is possible to conduct the processing in different patterns with a plurality of scanning heads.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, since a transfer mask is provided between the processing laser source and the beam splitter, the structure can be more

simplified than the structure where a plurality of masks are provided.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, since the transfer mask is provided between the beam splitter  
5 and each scanning head, the distance to the multilayer printed wiring board as the processing object from each transfer mask can be equalized.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus in relation to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a control mechanism of the manufacturing apparatus shown in Fig. 1;

15 Fig. 3 is a process diagram for the processing conducted by the control mechanism shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a process diagram for manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board in relation to the first embodiment;

20 Fig. 5 is a process diagram for manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board in relation the first embodiment;

Fig. 6 is a schematic diagram of a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus in relation to a modification example of the first embodiment;

25 Fig. 7 is a schematic diagram of a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus in relation to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a cross-sectional view along the line A-A of the X-Y table shown in Fig. 7;

Fig. 9(A) is a plan view of an aperture of the X-Y table

shown in Fig. 8, Fig. 9(B) is a cross-sectional view of the aperture, Fig. 9(C) is a plan view of the aperture, and Fig. 9(D) is a cross-sectional view of the aperture;

Fig. 10 is a process diagram for manufacturing a  
5 multilayer printed wiring board in relation to the second embodiment;

Fig. 11 is a process diagram for manufacturing a multilayer printed wiring board in relation to the second embodiment;

10 Fig. 12 is a schematic diagram of a multilayer printed wiring board in relation to the third embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 13 is a block diagram of a control mechanism of the manufacturing apparatus shown in Fig. 12;

15 Fig. 14 is a process diagram of the processing by the control mechanism shown in Fig. 13;

Fig. 15 is a flowchart of the galvano-data generating process shown in Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is a schematic diagram of a multilayer printed  
20 wiring board manufacturing apparatus in relation to a modification example of the third embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 17 is a schematic diagram of a multilayer printed wiring board in relation to another modification example of the  
25 third embodiment of the present invention.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The preferred embodiments of the present invention will be explained below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 shows a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus in relation to the first embodiment of the present invention.

In the first embodiment, as the laser source, a CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 60 which generates the CO<sub>2</sub> laser in the wavelength of 10.6 μm is used. This CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 60 is designed as the resonator type oscillator formed by sealing the CO<sub>2</sub> gas between a total reflection mirror 60B and a partial reflection mirror 60A. An energy from the excited CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted as the laser beam via the partial reflection mirror 60A.

The laser beam in the beam diameter of 20 mm radiated from the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 60 is condensed by a condenser lens 92 of zinc selenium (ZnSe) coated with a thin film of sodium fluoride (manufactured by MELLES GRIOT) and is then incident to a metal tellurium 94. The surface of the condenser lens 92 is perfectly transmitting the light beam in the wavelength of 10.6 μm (AR: ANTIREFLECTION).

Tellurium 94 has the length of 5 mm and is cut in the angle  $\theta = 14.3^\circ$  for the c-axis for the phase matching. The incident light in the wavelength of 10.6 μm is converted to the second harmonic wave in the wavelength of 5.3 μm by tellurium. The converted second harmonic wave is emitted from the tellurium crystal 94 and is then incident to the collimator lens 90. The incident and emitting end faces of the tellurium crystal 94 are coated with the thin film of sodium fluoride having the antireflection property for the beam in the wavelength of 10.6 μm in order to improve the incident and emitting efficiency.

The second harmonic wave in the wavelength of 5.3 μm emitted from tellurium 94 is paralleled by the collimator

lens 90. The surface of the collimator lens 90 (produced by  
MELLES GRIOT) is coated with a thin film of sodium fluoride of  
which the number of layers and thickness are adjusted. This  
surface totally reflects (HR: Whole Reflection) the laser beam  
5 having the wavelength of  $10.6\mu\text{m}$  and totally transmits (AR) the  
second harmonic wave having the wavelength of  $5.3\mu\text{m}$ . Namely,  
the laser beam having the wavelength of  $10.6\mu\text{m}$  which is the  
unconverted light source wavelength is cut. Therefore, only  
the laser beam in the wavelength of  $5.3\mu\text{m}$  contributes to the  
10 processing.

The laser beam in the wavelength of  $5.3\mu\text{m}$  is reflected  
by a mirror 66 of the optical system and is sent to the  
galvano-head 70 via the transfer mask 62 to make clear the focal  
point on the substrate.

15 The galvano-head (scanning head) 70 is composed of a set  
of the galvano-mirror formed of the galvano-mirror 74X for  
scanning the laser beam in the X direction and the galvano-  
mirror 74Y for scanning the beam in the Y direction. These  
mirrors 74X, 74Y are driven by the control motors 72X, 72Y. The  
20 motors 72X, 72Y adjust the angles of the mirrors 74X, 74Y  
depending on the control command from the computer to be  
explained later and also transmits the detection signal from  
the built-in encoder to the computer side.

The scan area of the galvano-mirror is  $30 \times 30\text{mm}$ .  
25 Moreover, the positioning velocity of the galvano-mirror is 400  
points/sec within the scanning area. The laser beam is  
respectively scanned in the X-Y directions through a couple of  
galvano-mirror 74X, 74Y and passes the f- $\theta$  lens 76 and collides  
with the bonding agent layer of the substrate 10 to be explained

later to form the via hole (aperture).

The substrate 10 is placed on the X-Y table 80 moving in the X-Y directions. As explained above, since the scanning area of galvano- mirror of each galvano-head 70 is 30mm  $\times$  30mm and the substrate 10 of 500mm  $\times$  500mm is used, the number of step areas of the X-Y table 80 is 289 (17  $\times$  17). Namely, the processing of the substrate 10 can be completed by repeating the movement of 30mm in the X direction 17 times and the movement in the Y direction 17 times, respectively.

The manufacturing apparatus explained above is also provided with the CCD camera 82 and therefore the positions of the target marks (positioning marks) 11 arranged at four corners of the substrate 10 are measured to start the processing after compensating for the error.

Subsequently, the control mechanism of this manufacturing apparatus will be explained with reference to Fig. 2.

The control apparatus is formed of a computer 50 which receives as an input the hole coordinate data (processing data) of the multilayer printed wiring board input from the input section 54 and the position of the target mark 11 measured by the CCD camera 82 to generate the processing data to be stored in the memory section 52. The actual boring process can be conducted by driving the X-Y table 80, laser 60 and the galvano-head 70 on the basis of the processing data.

Here, the processing data generating process by the computer 50 will be explained in further detail with reference to Fig. 3.

The computer 50 drives first the X-Y table 80 to the

position of the CCD camera 82 to move the target mark 11 (first process). Errors such as deviation in the X direction, deviation in the Y direction, a compression amount of substrate and an amount of rotation are measured by catching the positions  
5 of the four target marks 11 with the CCD camera 82 (second process). Here, an error data is generated for correcting the error of measurement (third process).

Subsequently, the computer 50 corrects the hole coordinate data consisting of the coordinates of respective  
10 holes with the error data generated in the third process to generate the actual processing data consisting of the coordinates of the holes actually bored (fourth process). On the basis of the actual processing data, the galvano-head data for driving the galvano-head 70 is generated (fifth process),  
15 the table data for driving the X-Y table is generated (sixth process), and the laser data for the timing of oscillating the laser 60 is also generated (seventh process). This data is temporarily stored in the memory section 52 as explained above and actual boring process is conducted by driving the X-Y table  
20 80, laser 60 and galvano-head 70 depending on this data.

Subsequently, the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing process using the manufacturing apparatus in relation to the first embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 4 and Fig. 5.

25 First, using, as a starting material, a copper clad laminated plate 10a where the copper foil 12 of  $18\mu\text{m}$  is laminated on both surfaces of the substrate 10 consisting of glass epoxy or BT (bismaleimidetriazine) of  $500 \times 500\text{mm}$  in the thickness of 1 mm shown in Fig. 4(A), the copper foil is etched in the



form of a pattern by the ordinary method as shown in the process (B) to form the internal layer copper patterns 14a, 14b and target marks 11 on both surfaces of the substrate 10.

Here, an interlayer resin insulator is prepared. After  
5 mixing the cresol novolak type epoxy resin (manufactured by Nippon Kayaku, Co. Ltd. : molecular weight 2500) of 70 parts by weight dissolved into DMDG (dimethylglycoldimethylether), polyethersulfone (FE) of 30 parts by weight, imidazole  
10 hardening agent (Shikoku Chemicals Corp. : Brand name 2E4MZ-CN) of 4 parts by weight and then further mixing, with this mixture, the epoxy resin particle in average particle size of 5.5 $\mu$ m of 35 parts by weight and that in average particle size of 0.5 $\mu$ m of 5 parts by weight, these are further kneaded while  
15 adding NMP to adjust the viscosity to 12pa.s with a homogenizer and subsequently these are kneaded with three rolls to obtain the solvent of bonding agent (interlayer resin insulator).

The substrate 10 shown in the process (B) is washed with water and is then dried up. Thereafter, the substrate 10 is  
20 subjected to degreasing under the acidic condition, soft-etching, processing with a catalyst solvent including palladium chloride and organic acid to obtain Pd catalyst, activation and the plating in the non-electrolytic plating bath to form the recessed and projected layers (rough surface) of Ni-P-Cu alloy in the thickness of 2.5  $\mu$ m at the surface of the copper  
25 conductive bodies 14a, 14b, target mark 11 and a via hole pad.

Thereafter, the substrate 10 is washed with water is then soaked into the non-electrolytic tin plating bath consisting of tin fluoride boron-thioharnstoff acid solution in the temperature of 50° for an hour to form a tin replacement plating

layer in the thickness of  $0.3\ \mu\text{m}$  at the surface of the Ni-Cu-P alloy rough surface.

As shown in the process of Fig. 4(C), the bonding agent is coated on the substrate 10 using a roll coater, it is then  
5 left for 20 minutes under the horizontal condition. Then, the substrate is dried up for 30 minutes at the temperature of  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  to form a bonding agent layer 16 in the thickness of  $50\ \mu\text{m}$ . Thereafter, it is then heated at the temperature of  $170^{\circ}\text{C}$  for five hours to harden the bonding agent layer 16. This bonding  
10 agent layer 16 has light transmitting property. Thereby, the target mark 11 covered with the bonding agent layer 16 can be recognized easily with the CCD camera 82.

Thereafter, the substrate 10 is placed on the X-Y table 80 shown in Fig. 1 and the target mark 11 formed on the substrate  
15 10 as explained above is measured with the CCD camera 82. Thereby, after measuring and correcting the deviation of the substrate 10, the pulse beam is applied to the substrate from the laser oscillator 60 to form the hole 20 for via hole to the bonding agent layer 16 on the substrate (refer to process (D)).

20 Namely, the boring process is conducted with the structure of this embodiment having formed the optical system using a condenser lens 92, a collimator lens 94 and tellurium 94 as the non-linear optical crystal.

An output from the  $\text{CO}_2$  laser oscillator 60 is 5000W and  
25 pulse time is  $1\ \mu\text{sec}$ . A harmonic wave output has the peak level of 1600W and the conversion efficiency has been 32%. Here, radiation energy has been set to  $0.8\text{mJ}$ .

In this embodiment, the second harmonic wave laser beam of  $5.3\ \mu\text{m}$  is radiated through the bonding agent layer (interlayer

resin insulator) 16 in the thickness of  $50\mu\text{m}$  to expose the bottom section (internal layer copper patterns 14a, 14b) in order to form the hole 20 in the depth of  $50\mu\text{m}$ . Moreover, a small via hole having the upper diameter of hole 20 (aperture diameter) of  $40\mu\text{m}$  can be obtained.

As explained above, a fine and deep hole can be bored by utilizing the laser beam wavelength of  $5.3\mu\text{m}$  which has been obtained by modulating the laser beam of the low cost  $\text{CO}_2$  laser source to the shortened wavelength.

Explained here is the result of testing in formation of the via hole bored to the bonding agent layer 16 of  $50\mu\text{m}$  by radiating the laser beam under the setting that diameter of mask 62 is  $0.6\text{mm}$  and radiation energy is  $0.4\text{mJ}$  by structuring an optical system, for the purpose of comparison without use of the condenser lens, collimator lens or tellurium. In this case, an output from the  $\text{CO}_2$  laser is  $5000\text{W}$  and pulse time is  $1\mu\text{sec}$ . An output of harmonic wave has the peak level of  $1600\text{W}$  and wavelength is  $10.6\mu\text{m}$ .

The upper diameter of the hole formed for the testing is  $40\mu\text{m}$ , the depth of hole is  $30\mu\text{m}$  and it is impossible to expose the bottom section (internal layer copper patterns 14a, 14b) passing through the bonding agent layer 16 of  $50\mu\text{m}$ .

When the radiation energy is increased up to  $0.8\text{mJ}$  in the same optical system, it has been realized to expose the bottom section passing through the bonding agent layer 16 in the thickness of  $50\mu\text{m}$ , but the upper diameter of hole is  $60\mu\text{m}$  and the diameter of aperture is extended.

As explained above, when the wavelength is  $10.6\mu\text{m}$ , a hole can be bored through the bonding agent layer by increasing the

output, but the hole diameter is also extended. Moreover, when the output is reduced, the hole diameter can be reduced but the laser output cannot be transmitted through the bonding agent layer and the upper layer cannot be connected to the lower layer.

5 In this embodiment, since the target mark 11 is formed of copper, it assures high reflectivity and can be read easily by the CCD camera 82. Moreover, since copper does not allow transmission of light beam, the positioning mark can be recognized with a silhouette and can be read easily with the  
10 CCD camera 82. In this embodiment, copper is used for target mark 11, but other various kinds of metal conductors which also assure higher reflectivity and do not allow transmission of light beam can be used in place of copper.

Moreover, since the target mark 11 is formed  
15 simultaneously with the conductive circuit (internal layer copper patterns 14a, 14b), it is not required to additionally provide the target mark forming process.

Subsequently, a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method will be explained. In this embodiment,  
20 5000 holes are bored at random on the substrate (500mm × 500mm) with the shortened wavelength laser beam. Here, as explained above, the scanning area of the galvano-mirror is 30 × 30mm and the positioning velocity is 400 points/sec in the scanning area. On the other hand, the number of step areas of the X-Y table  
25 is 298 (17 × 17). Namely, the laser process is completed by repeating the movement of 30 mm in the X direction 17 times and the movement of 30 mm in the Y direction 17 times. The moving velocity of the X-Y table 80 is 15000mm/min. Meanwhile, the recognizing time of the four target marks 11 by the CCD camera

82 is 9 seconds including the moving time of the table 80. When the substrate 10 is processed by such manufacturing apparatus, the processing time has been 269.5 seconds.

5 The substrate 10 having formed the holes 20 is soaked into chromium acid for one minute to dissolve the epoxy resin particles in the inter-resin layer insulator in order to obtain rough surface of the inter-resin layer insulator 16 shown in the process (E). Thereafter, the substrate is soaked into the neutralizing solution (manufactured by SHIPLEY Corp.) and is  
10 then washed with water.

The substrate 10 having conducted the rough surface forming process is given the palladium catalyst (ATOTECH Corp.) to give the catalyst core to the bonding agent layer 16 and the hole for via hole 20.

15 Here, liquid resist is prepared. Oligomer given the photosensitivity (molecular weight of 4000) obtained by acrylic process for the epoxy group of 25% of the cresol novolac type epoxy resin (produced by Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd.: Bland name EOCN-103S) dissolved into DMDG, an imidazole hardening agent  
20 (manufactured by Shikoku Chemicals Corp.: Bland name 2PMHZ-PW), acrylic isocyanate (manufactured by Toagosei Co., Ltd.: Bland name Alonix M215), benzophenone as the photo-starting agent (manufactured by Kanto Chemical Co., Inc.) and Michler's ketone as the photo-sensitivity amplifying agent (manufactured  
25 by Kanto Chemical Co., Inc.) are kneaded using NMP in the following composition. Then these are adjusted to the viscosity of 3000 cps with a homodisper stirrer and are then kneaded with three rolls to obtain the liquid resist.  
Resin composition; photosensitive epoxy/M215/BP/MK/

imidazole = 100/10/5/0.5/5

As shown in the process (F) of Fig. 5, the liquid resist obtained above is coated to both surfaces of the substrate 10 having completed the process to give the catalyst core using a roll coater. It is then dried up at the temperature of 60°C for half an hour to form the resist layer 24 in the thickness of 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Thereafter, after the non-removing area of the resist layer 24 is exposed by the photo-etching or radiation of small output laser, the resist layer is dissolved by DMTG as shown in the process (G) to form, on the substrate 10, the resist for plating 26 where the pattern 26b to form the conductive circuit pattern 26a and target marks is eliminated. Moreover, the resist is exposed with ultra-high pressure mercury lamp in the energy of 1000mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> for an hour at the temperature of 100°C. Thereafter, the substrate is heated for 3 hours at 150°C to form permanent resist on the interlayer insulator (bonding agent layer) 16.

The substrate 10 having formed the permanent resist 26 as shown in the process (H) is subjected to the pre-plating process (in more concrete, process by sulfuric acid and activation of catalyst core) in advance. Thereafter, the non-electrolytic copper plating 28 in the thickness of about 15 $\mu\text{m}$  is precipitated to the resist non-forming area by the non-electrolytic plating in the non-electrolytic copper plating bath to form the external layer copper pattern 30, via hole 32, and target mark 111. Thereby, a conductive layer is formed by the additive method.

The processes explained above are repeated to further

form another conductive layer by the additive method. In this case, an error is measured with the CCD camera 82 using the target mark 111 formed on the interlayer insulator (bonding agent layer) 16 and the hole for via hole is formed by laser.

5 By building up the wiring layers, a multilayer printed wiring board of six layers can be formed.

Subsequently, a structure of the manufacturing apparatus in relation to the modification example of the first embodiment will be explained. In the profile explained above by referring  
10 to Fig. 1, tellurium crystal 94 is arranged at the outside of the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 60 formed by sealing the CO<sub>2</sub> gas between the anti-reflection mirror 60B and the partial reflection mirror 60A. Meanwhile, in the second embodiment, the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 160 is provided, by sealing the CO<sub>2</sub> gas, between the  
15 tellurium crystal 194 and the anti-reflection mirror 160B. Namely, the tellurium crystal 194 is arranged within the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 160. The tellurium crystal 194 is structured to partially reflect with the surface opposed to the anti-reflection mirror 160B to pass only a part of the energy excited  
20 by the CO<sub>2</sub> gas like the partial reflection mirror 60A in the profile shown in Fig. 1.

In the non-linear type optical crystal such as tellurium crystal, etc., since the conversion efficiency to harmonics is higher when a high output laser beam is incident, a high output  
25 laser beam in the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 160 is incident to the tellurium crystal to realize higher efficiency of the conversion to harmonics.

In the embodiment explained above, a galvano-head is used as the scanning head, but a polygon mirror may alternatively

be employed. In addition, the laser radiating position can be adjusted by moving the X-Y table without use of the scanning head.

In the above embodiment, the wavelength of CO<sub>2</sub> laser is doubled by one tellurium crystal, but it is also possible to increase the laser wavelength fourfold by providing the tellurium crystal in two stages. Moreover, the CO<sub>2</sub> laser is used as the laser oscillator, but it is also possible in the present invention to use the harmonics of various laser sources such as argon, etc. Here, the wavelength of laser beam must be 360nm or less or 3000nm or more to bore the holes to the interlayer resin insulator. Namely, the laser beam in the wavelength larger than 360nm and smaller than 3000nm is used to eliminate generation of head when the laser passes the resin. Therefore, when the wavelength is doubled, the laser source of the wavelength smaller than 720nm and larger than 6000nm must be used. Moreover, when the wavelength is increased up to four times, the laser source of the wavelength smaller than 1440nm and larger than 12000nm must be used.

In addition, in the first embodiment explained above, tellurium is used as the non-linear optical crystal, but various kinds of non-linear optical crystal may be used so long as the phase matching with the laser beam can be attained and such optical crystal allows transmission of the laser beam from 10μm to 5μm. For example, gallium-selenium GaSe, antimony sulfide Ag<sub>3</sub>SBS<sub>3</sub>, arsenic sulfide Ag<sub>3</sub>ASS<sub>3</sub>, mercury sulfide HgS and selenium Se, etc. can be used.

Moreover, as a work piece to be processed, a multilayer printed wiring board is used but the work piece is not limited



thereto.

The second embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 7 to Fig. 11. Fig. 7 shows the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus in  
5 relation to the second embodiment of the present invention.

In the second embodiment, the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 260 in the wavelength of 10.6μm is used as the laser source. The light beam emitted from the laser oscillator 260 is sent to the galvano-head via the transfer mask 262 in order to make clear  
10 the focal point on the substrate.

The scanning head 270 is formed of a galvano-mirror formed of a set of the galvano-mirror 274X for scanning the laser beam in the X direction and the galvano-mirror 274Y for scanning the beam in the Y direction. These mirrors 274X, 274Y are driven  
15 by the control motors 272X, 272Y. The motors 272X, 272Y adjust the angles of the mirrors 274X, 274Y according to the control command from the computer to be explained later and also transmit the detecting signal from the built-in encoder to the computer side.

The scanning area of the galvano-mirror is 30 × 30mm. Moreover, the positioning speed of galvano-mirror is 400 points/sec in the scanning area. The laser beam is scanned in the X-Y directions via a couple of galvano-mirrors 274X, 274Y to pass the f-θ lens 276 and then reach the bonding agent layer  
20 described later of the substrate 210 to form a hole 220 (aperture) for via hole.

The substrate 210 is placed on the X-Y table 280 moving in the X-Y directions. As is explained above, since the scanning area of the galvano-mirror of each galvano-head 270

is 30mm  $\times$  30mm and the substrate 210 of 500mm  $\times$  500mm is used, the step area of the X-Y table 280 is 289 (17  $\times$  17).

In the manufacturing apparatus, the CCD camera 282 is provided to measure the position of the target marks  
5 (positioning marks) 211a arranged at the four corners of the substrate 210 and correct an error in view of starting the processing.

A structure of the X-Y table 280 of this embodiment will be explained in further detail by referring to Fig. 7 and Fig.  
10 8. Fig. 8 is a cross-sectional view along the line A-A of the X-Y table 280 shown in Fig. 7.

As shown in Fig. 7, a rectangular aperture 280a of 30mm  $\times$  8mm is provided to the area corresponding to the positioning mark 211a of the printed wiring board 210 when the printed wiring  
15 board 210 is placed at the four corners of the X-Y table 280. As shown in Fig. 8, a socket 286 is engaged with respective aperture 280a. The socket 286 is connected to the cable 283 wired at the inside of the X-Y table 280 and this cable 283 is connected to the connector 281 provided at the end part of the  
20 X-Y table 280. This connector 281 is further connected to the cable 290 from the external power supply. Connection with the external power supply may also be realized through slide contact method, in addition to use of cable of this embodiment. In the socket 286, four LEDs 288 conforming to the specification No.  
25 HP-HLMP-2685 (Stanley Electric Co., Ltd. H-3000-L, Sharp Corp. GL5-UR-3K, etc.) are fixed. The aperture 280a is provided with a transparent or semi-transparent glass or acrylic cover 289 and thereby the LED 288 may be protected if the laser beam is erroneously radiated. At the lower side of the X-Y table 280,

the X drive motor 284X for driving in the X direction and Y drive motor 284Y for driving in the Y direction are arranged. In the X-Y table 280 of this embodiment, a groove and a hole (not illustrated) are provided for vacuum absorbing and fixing the substrate to the surface other than that corresponding to the light source.

Explanation of the control mechanism of the manufacturing apparatus is not repeated here because it is similar to that of the first embodiment explained above.

Here, the processing data generating process by the computer 250 of the second embodiment will be explained. The process by the computer 250 is similar to that of the first embodiment described above with reference to Fig. 3 and therefore it will be explained with reference to Fig. 3 and Fig. 9. Fig. 9(B) is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the aperture 280a of the X-Y table 280 shown in Fig. 8. Fig. 9(A) is a plan view of the aperture 280a viewed from the side of the CCD camera 282.

The computer 250 first drives the X-Y table 280 to the position of the CCD camera 282 to move the target mask 211a (first process shown in Fig. 3). The LED 288 is caused to emit the light to pass through the BT resin substrate 210 (refer to Fig. 9(B)) to generate silhouettes of the target mark 211a on the substrate surface side and of the target mark 211b of the substrate rear surface side (refer to Fig. 9(A)). The CCD camera 282 recognizes the silhouettes and picks up the positions of the four target marks 211a of the substrate 210 (refer to Fig. 7) to measure the errors such as deviation in the X direction, deviation in the Y direction, compression of substrate, and a

rotating amount (second process). In order to correct the errors measured, an error data is generated (third process). The four target marks 211b are picked up to process the rear surface side of the substrate 211. The desirable shape of the target mark is circular shape in which the center point can be extracted easily by the computer.

Subsequently, the computer 250 corrects the hole coordinate data consisting of the coordinates of the processing holes with the error data generated by the third process to generate the actual processing data consisting of the coordinates of the holes to be bored actually (fourth process). On the basis of the actual processing data, the scanning head data for driving the galvano-head 270 is generated (fifth process), the table data for driving the X-Y table 280 is generated (sixth process), and the laser data of the timing for oscillating the laser 260 is generated (seventh process). This data is temporarily stored in the memory section 252 and actual boring process is executed by driving the X-Y table 280, laser 260, and galvano-head 270 based on this data.

Thereafter, the manufacturing process of a multilayer printed wiring board by utilizing the multilayer printed wiring board of the second embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 10 and Fig. 11.

First, using, as the starting material, the copper clad laminated plate 210a in which the copper foil of  $18\mu\text{m}$  is laminated on both surfaces of the substrate 210 consisting of transparent or semi-transparent glass epoxy or BT (bismaleimide triazine) of  $500 \times 500\text{mm}$  in the thickness of 1 mm shown in the process (A) of Fig. 10, the internal layer copper

patterns 214a, 214b, target mark 211a for processing the substrate surface and target mark 211b for processing the rear surface are formed on both sides of the substrate 211 by etching the copper foil into the pattern by the ordinary method as shown in Fig. 10(B).

The substrate 210 shown in Fig. 10(B) is washed with water and is then dried up. The substrate 210 is then subject to the degreasing process in the acid for the soft etching purpose. It is then processed by the catalyst solvent consisting of palladium chloride and organic acid. Thereby, it is given the Pd catalyst and activated. Thereafter, it is subject to the plating in the non-electrolytic plating bath to form the recessed and projected layer (rough surface) of Ni-P-Cu alloy in the thickness of 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  on the surface of the copper conductors 214a, 214b, target marks 211a, 211b and via hole pad.

The substrate is then washed with water and is then soaked into the non-electrolytic tin plating bath consisting of tin borofluoride thiourea for an hour at the temperature of 50°C to form a tin replacement plating layer of 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  in thickness at the surface of the Ni-Cu-P alloy rough surface.

As shown in the process (C), the bonding agent is coated on the substrate 210 using a roll coater, it is then left for 20 minutes under the horizontal condition. Then, the substrate is dried up for 30 minutes at the temperature of 60°C to form the bonding agent layer 216 of 50  $\mu\text{m}$  in thickness. Thereafter, the bonding agent layer 216 is hardened by heating process for 5 hours at 170°C in the heating furnace. This bonding agent layer 216 has a light transmitting property. Thereby, the target marks 211a, 211b covered with this bonding agent layer

216 can be recognized easily with the CCD camera 282.

Thereafter, the substrate 210 is placed on the X-Y table 280 shown in Fig. 7 and the substrate 210 is fixed on the X-Y table 280 by vacuum absorption through the grooves and holes provided on the X-Y table 280. Then, the target marks 211a formed at the four corners of the substrate 210 as mentioned above are measured with the CCD camera 282 and deviation of the substrate 210 is measured and corrected. Thereafter, the pulse beam of 50  $\mu$ sec is applied in the output of 400W from the laser oscillator 260. This light beam is used to form a hole 220 for via hole to the bonding agent layer 216 of the substrate (refer to process (D)).

In this embodiment, since copper which does not allow transmission of light beam is used for the target marks 211a, 211b, the positioning mark can be recognized easily and can be read easily with the CCD camera 282 by means of the silhouettes. In this embodiment, copper is used for the target marks 211a, 211b, but the other various metal conductors which also do not allow transmission of light beam can also be used.

Moreover, since the target marks 211a, 211b are formed simultaneously with the conductive circuit (internal layer copper patterns 214a, 214b), it is not required to additionally provide the process to form the target marks.

In this embodiment, 5000 holes are bored at random on the substrate (500mm  $\times$  500mm). Here, as explained above, the scanning area of the galvano-mirror is 30  $\times$  30mm and the positioning speed is 400 points/sec within the scanning area. On the other hand, the number of step areas of the X-Y table 280 is 289 (17  $\times$  17). The moving speed of the X-Y table 280

is 15000mm/min. Meanwhile, the recognizing time of the four target marks 211a, 211b by the CCD camera 282 is 9 seconds including the moving time of the table 280.

When the substrate 210 is manufactured with this  
5 manufacturing apparatus, the processing time is 269.5 seconds.

The substrate 210 having formed the holes 220 is soaked into chromium acid for one minute to dissolve the epoxy resin particles in the inter-resinlayer insulating layer to form the layer 216 having the rough surface as shown in the process (E).  
10 Thereafter, the substrate is soaked into the neutral solution (SHIPLEY Corp.) and then it is washed with water.

The catalyst core may be given to the bonding agent layer 216 and hole 220 for via hole by giving the palladium catalyst (ATOTECH Corp.) to the substrate 210 with the rough surface  
15 forming process completed.

As shown in the process (F) of Fig. 11, the liquid resist like that in the first embodiment is coated with a roll coater on both surfaces of the substrate 21 with the catalyst core giving process completed and it is then dried up for 30 minutes  
20 at 60°C to form the resist layer 224 of 30μm in thickness.

Thereafter, the non-removing section of the resist layer 224 is exposed by the photoetching or laser radiation of a small output and then the resist layer is dissolved by DMTG as shown in the process (G) to form the resist 226 for the plating on  
25 the substrate 210 where the pattern 226b to form the conductive circuit 226a and target marks is eliminated. Then, the substrate is exposed with an ultra-high pressure lamp in the energy of 1000mJ/cm<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, the substrate 210 is heated for 1 hour at 100°C, then 3 hours at 150°C to form the permanent

resist 226 on the interlayer insulating layer (bonding agent layer) 216.

As shown in the process (H), the pre-processing (specifically, process by sulfuric acid and activation of catalyst core) is executed to the substrate 210 on which the permanent resist 226 is formed. Thereafter, non-electrolyte copper plating 228 in the thickness of 15 $\mu$ m is precipitated on the resist non-forming section by the non-electrolytic plating in the non-electrolytic copper plating bath to form the external layer copper pattern 230, via hole 232 and target marks 211a', 211b' in view of forming the conductive layer by the additive method.

By repeating the processes explained above, one more conductive layer is formed by the additive method. In this case, as shown in Fig. 9(C) and Fig. 9(D), an error is measured with the CCD camera 282 and the hole for via hole is formed by laser beam by use of the surface processing target marks 211a' and the rear surface processing target mark 211b' formed on the interlayer insulating layer (bonding agent layer) 216. The multilayer printed wiring board of four or more layers can be formed by building up the wiring layers as explained above.

The third embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 12 to Fig. 17.

Fig. 12 shows a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus in relation to the third embodiment of the present invention.

In this embodiment, the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator 360 is used as the laser source. The light beam emitted from the laser oscillator 360 is incident to a beam splitter 364 via the



transfer mask 362 in order to make clear the focal point on the substrate. In the beam splitter 364, the incident light is distributed by 1:1 in the power ratio and is then transmitted to the side A galvano-head (scanning head) 370A and to the side  
5 B galvano-head (scanning head) 370B through reflection by the mirror 366. As the beam splitter, those combining a plurality sets of the prisms and those obtained by arranging a multilayer film on zinc-selenium (ZnSe) may be used.

The side A galvano-head 370A and side B galvano-head 370B  
10 are respectively formed of a set of galvano-mirrors consisting of the galvano-mirror 374X for scanning the laser beam in the X direction and the galvano-mirror 374Y for scanning the beam in the Y direction, and these mirrors 374X, 374Y are driven by the control motors 372X, 372Y. The motors 372X, 372Y adjust  
15 the angles of the mirrors 374X, 374Y and transmit the detecting signal from the built-in encoder to the computer side according to the control command from the computer to be described later.

The scanning area of the galvano-mirror is 30x30mm and the positioning speed of the galvano-mirror is 400 points/sec  
20 in the scanning area. The distance between the side A galvano-head 370A and side B galvano-head 370B is set to 250 mm interval which is a half of the substrate (500mm  $\times$  500mm) for multiple chamfering in order to improve the efficiency of substrate processing. The laser beam is scanned in the X-Y  
25 directions via a couple of galvano-mirrors 374X, 374Y and then passes through the f- $\theta$  lens 376 and then reaches the bonding agent layer of the substrate 310 to be explained later to form the hole (aperture) for the via hole.

The substrate 310 is placed on the X-Y table 380 moving

in the X-Y directions. As explained above, since the scanning area of the galvano-mirrors of the galvano-heads 370A, 370B is 30mm  $\times$  30mm and the substrate 31 of 500mm  $\times$  500mm is used, the number of step areas of the X-Y table 380 is 289 (17  $\times$  17).

- 5 Namely, the laser processing is completed by repeating the movement of 30mm in the X direction 17 times and the movement of 30 mm in the Y direction 17 times.

In the manufacturing apparatus, the CCD camera 382 is arranged and the processing is started after measuring the  
10 positions of the target marks 311 arranged at the four corners of the substrate 310 and then compensating for an error.

Subsequently, the control mechanism of the manufacturing apparatus will be explained with reference to Fig. 13.

The control apparatus is composed of a computer 350 which  
15 receives an input the hole coordinate data of the multilayer printed wiring board (processing data) input from the input section 354 and the position of the target marks (positioning marks) 311 measured by the CCD camera 382 to generate the processing data and then stores it to the memory section 352.  
20 On the basis of the processing data, the X-Y table 380, laser 360 and galvano-heads 370A, 370B are driven for the purpose of actual hole boring process.

Here, the processing data generating process by the computer 350 will be explained in detail with reference to Fig.  
25 14.

The computer 350 drives the X-Y table 380 to the position of the CCD camera 382 to move the target mark 311 (first process). Errors such as deviation in the X direction, deviation in the Y direction, compression of substrate, and an amount of rotation

can be measured by picking up the positions of the four target marks 311 with the CCD camera 382 (second process). The error data for compensating for the measured error is generated (third process).

5           Thereafter, the computer 350 corrects the hole coordinate data consisting of the coordinates for hole boring with the error data generated by the third process to generate the actual processing data consisting of the coordinates of the hole to be bored actually (fourth process). On the basis of the actual  
10   processing data, the galvano-head data for driving the galvano-heads 370A, 370B is generated (fifth process), the table data for driving the X-Y table 380 is generated (sixth process), and the laser data of the timing for oscillating the laser 360 is also generated (seventh process). This data thus  
15   generated is then stored temporarily in the memory section 352 and drives the X-Y table 380, laser 360 and galvano-heads 370A, 370B on the basis of the data for the purpose of actual hole boring process.

          Generation of the galvano-data used in the fifth process  
20   will be explained in more detail with reference to Fig. 15 showing the flowchart of this process.

          At the time of manufacturing a plurality of multilayer printed wiring boards by multiple chamfering of the substrate, it may be thought reasonable to conduct the hole boring process  
25   with the same pattern in order to simultaneously bore the holes of two sheets of the multilayer printed wiring board in the same shape with the side A galvano-head 370A and side B galvano-head 370B. However, since the positional accuracy of the hole boring process is  $20\mu\text{m}$ , it is required to position the adjacent

two multilayer printed wiring boards of the same shape to the accuracy of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  but it is very difficult. Therefore, in this embodiment, the holes are bored on the side A galvano-head 370A differently from those on the side B galvano-head 370B. The  
5 process for this purpose is conducted by the process shown in Fig. 15 to be explained later.

First, the computer 350 determines, from the coordinates of each hole of the actual processing data, whether each hole  
10 should be processed by the side A galvano-head 370A or side B galvano-head 370B (S12). When a hole is bored with the side A galvano-head 370A (YES in the step S14), it is also judged whether or not the hole boring process should be conducted by  
15 the side A galvano-head 370A (step S16) at the timing where the laser beam is supplied from the laser 360 and the hole boring process is conducted by the side B galvano-head 370B which is the other galvano-head.

Here, when the boring is not conducted (NO in the step S16), the rotating positions (scanning position) of the X axis motor 374X and Y axis motor 374Y are set (S18) to radiate the  
20 laser beam to the position deviated from the substrate 310, namely to the area outside the processing object area of the multilayer printed wiring board with the galvano-mirrors 372X, 372Y. On the other hand, when the boring is conducted (YES in the step S16), the rotating positions (scanning positions) of  
25 the X axis motor 374X, Y axis motor 374Y are calculated to radiate the laser beam to the coordinates positions of the target holes with the galvano-mirrors 372X, 372Y (S20, S22). In the case of processing with the side B galvano-head 370B (NO in S14), the similar processes (S26, S28, S30, S32) are

conducted. When above processes are completed for the coordinates of all holes of the actual processing data (YES in S34), all processes are completed.

Subsequently, manufacturing of the multilayer printed wiring board utilizing the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus in relation to the third embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 which have also been referred to for explanation about the manufacturing process of the first embodiment.

The processes (A) to (C) are similar to the first embodiment and the same explanation is not repeated here. After completion of the process (C), the substrate 10 is placed on the X-Y table 380 shown in Fig. 12 and the pulse beam of  $50\mu$  sec is radiated to the substrate 10 in an output of 400W from the laser oscillator 360. This light beam forms a hole 20 for via hole to the bonding agent layer 16 of the substrate (refer to the process (D)).

In this embodiment, 5000 holes are bored at random on the substrate ( $500\text{mm} \times 500\text{mm}$ ). Here, as explained above, the scanning area of respective galvano-mirrors is  $30 \times 30\text{mm}$  as explained above and the positioning speed 400 points/sec within the scanning area. On the other hand, the number of step areas of the X-Y table 380 is 289 ( $17 \times 17$ ). The moving speed of the X-Y table 380 is 15000 mm/min. Meanwhile, the recognizing time of the four target marks 11 by the CCD camera 382 is 9 seconds including the moving time of the table 380.

When the substrate 10 is processed by this manufacturing apparatus, the processing time is 134 seconds. In the manufacturing apparatus in the first and second embodiments in

which only one galvano-head is used, the processing time is 269.5 seconds. As explained above, the processing time can be reduced to a half in the present invention without changing the table size. The explanation about the processes (E) to (H) is not repeated here because it is similar to that in the first embodiment.

Subsequently, the manufacturing apparatus in relation to the modification example of the third embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 16. In the third embodiment explained with reference to Fig. 12, two units of the galvano-heads 370A, 370B are provided. Meanwhile, in the third embodiment, three units of the galvano-heads 370A, 370B, 370C are provided. In this example of modification, the light beam having the power equal to  $1/3$  the power of the light from the laser 360 is supplied to the side A galvano-head 370A via the beam splitter 364A which distributes the incident light beam in the power ratio of 1:2. Moreover, the light beam having the power equal to  $1/3$  the power of the beam from the beam splitter 364A is supplied to the side B galvano-head 370B via the beam splitter 364A which distributes the beam in the power ratio of 1:1 and moreover the light beam having the power equal to  $1/3$  is also supplied to the side C galvano-head 370C by means of the mirror 366.

In the manufacturing apparatus of the modification example of this third embodiment, the hole boring time by laser can be reduced to  $1/3$ . In this embodiment, three units of the galvano-head are used but it is also possible to use four or more units of galvano-head by adjusting the power ratio of the beams distributed by the beam splitter.

Next, the manufacturing apparatus in relation to the other modification example of the third embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 17. In the third embodiment explained with reference to Fig. 12, a unit of transfer mask 362 is arranged between the laser oscillator 360 and beam splitter 364. On the other hand, in the manufacturing apparatus of the third embodiment, the transfer masks 362A, 362B are arranged respectively between the beam splitter 364 and galvano-heads 370A, 370B.

In the structure of the profile explained above with reference to Fig. 12, only one transfer mask 362 is used, however, the optical path length up to the substrate 310 from the transfer mask 362 in the case of the side A galvano-head 370A is different from that in the case of side B galvano-head 370B. Therefore, it is required that the distance up to the side A galvano-head 370A from the substrate 310 is set different from the distance up to the side B galvano-head 370B. Meanwhile, in the structure of the other modification example shown in Fig. 17, the optical path length up to the substrate 310 from the transfer mask 362 is equal in both the case of the side A galvano-head 370A and the side B galvano-head 370B. Therefore, the distance from the substrate 310 to the side A galvano-head 370A can be set equal to the distance up to the side B galvano-head 370B.

In the second and third embodiments explained above, the present invention is applied to a multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus, however, the present invention can also be applied to various kinds of laser processing apparatuses. Moreover, a galvano-head is used as the scanning head but a polygon mirror can also be used. In addition, the

CO<sub>2</sub> laser is used as the laser oscillator, but various types of laser may also be used.

According to the apparatus of the third embodiment, the processing speed can be improved by utilizing the X-Y table for placing the single galvano-head of the related art. Namely, it is also possible to prepare a plurality of galvano-heads and provide the laser oscillator to these heads. In this case, the apparatus size such as the X-Y table inevitably increases.

However, in the third embodiment, since a single laser oscillator is used, the apparatus size is not increased.

Moreover, the area of the X-Y table can be set to the size of only one work piece by processing only one work piece (multilayer printed wiring board) with two or more scanning heads and thereby the processing speed can be enhanced without increase in size of the apparatus.

#### Effect of the Invention

As explained above, since the shortened wavelength can be realized by modulating the wavelength of the laser source in the present invention, fine holes may be formed as well as via holes by use of a low price light source.

As explained previously, since several hundreds to several thousands holes can be bored with radiation of laser beam while securing the positional accuracy of the via holes in the present invention, mass-production of the multilayer printed wiring board by the laser beam can be realized.

As explained above, since the light can always be applied from the lower side of the positioning marks to accurately read the positioning marks in the present invention even when the X-Y table itself or a drive motor is provided, the boring process



by the laser beam can be conducted with higher accuracy.

Moreover, as explained above, since a plurality of galvano-heads are provided even when only one laser source is used in the present invention, the boring speed can be improved  
5 without increase in size of the apparatus and thereby low cost laser boring can be realized.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing  
apparatus, to be used for processing a multilayer printed wiring  
5 board having an interlayer resin insulator, comprising:

a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting  
the laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the  
positioning marks of a multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y  
table for placing a multilayer printed wiring board, an input  
10 section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer  
printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the  
processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an  
arithmetic operating section, wherein

the processing data is input from the input section and  
15 this processing data is stored in the memory section;

a position of the positioning mark of the multilayer  
printed wiring board placed on the X-Y table is measured with  
the camera;

the input processing data is corrected on the basis of  
20 the measured position of the positioning mark to generate the  
X-Y table drive data in the arithmetic section and this drive  
data is then stored in the memory section; and

the drive data is read from the memory section and then  
the X-Y table and the scanning head are controlled in the control  
25 section and thereby the laser beam is radiated to the multilayer  
printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer  
to form the hole.

2. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing  
apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said positioning mark

is formed of a metal conductor.

3. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said positioning mark is formed simultaneously with a conductive circuit.

5 4. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

forming the positioning mark and interlayer insulating agent layer on a multilayer printed wiring board;

10 placing a multilayer printed wiring board having formed said positioning mark on the X-Y table of the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus consisting of a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y  
15 table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section, and inputting the processing data  
20 to this manufacturing apparatus;

measuring the position of the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board with the camera, correcting the input processing data based on the measured positioning mark position to generate the scanning head and the X-Y table drive  
25 data in the arithmetic operating section and then storing this drive data in the memory section; and

reading the drive data from the memory section to control the X-Y table and the scanning head in the control section and radiating the laser beam to the multilayer printed wiring board

to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form a hole.

5 5. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus comprising a CO<sub>2</sub> laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam in the X-Y directions or an X-Y table for displacing the position of the multilayer printed wiring board, wherein the laser beam oscillated from said CO<sub>2</sub> laser source is converted to the beam of shortened wavelength by harmonic wave generating means.

10 6. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, harmonic wave generating means for converting the laser beam oscillated from said processing laser source to the shortened wavelength beam of second harmonic wave and a scanning head for deflecting the direction of the laser beam in the X-Y directions or an X-Y table  
15 for displacing position of the multilayer printed wiring board, wherein the wavelength of said processing laser source is between 720nm or less and the minimum wavelength of the laser source or more, or between 6000nm or more and the maximum wavelength of the laser source or less.

20 7. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus, comprising:

a CO<sub>2</sub> laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning marks of a multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y  
25 table for placing a multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result, and an arithmetic operating section, wherein

the processing data is input from the input section and this processing data is stored in the memory section;

position of the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y table is measured with the camera;

5 the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table is generated from the measured position and the input processing data in the arithmetic operating section, and the drive data is stored in the memory section; and

10 the drive data is read from the memory section and then the X-Y table and the scanning head are controlled in the control section and thereby the laser beam is radiated to the multilayer printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form the hole,

15 the laser beam oscillated from said CO<sub>2</sub> laser source being converted to the shortened wavelength laser beam of second harmonic wave by harmonic wave generating means.

20 8. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus according to any claim of claims 5 to 7, wherein said harmonic wave generating means is a non-linear optical crystal which reflects the processing laser to the harmonic wave emitting side and gives thereto the function to transmitting harmonic wave.

25 9. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said non-linear optical crystal is formed of a material selected from tellurium, gallium-selenium, antimony sulfide, arsenic sulfide, mercury sulfide and selenium.

10. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method utilizing a manufacturing apparatus comprising a CO<sub>2</sub>

laser source, a harmonic wave generating apparatus for converting the laser beam from said CO<sub>2</sub> laser source to the shortened wavelength beam of the second harmonic wave, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of the laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board and an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, comprising the steps of:

measuring, with a camera, the target mark position of the multilayer printed wiring board having the interlayer resin insulator placed on the X-Y table;

generating the scanning head and the X-Y table drive data from the measured position and the processing data; and

controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head based on the drive data and radiating the shortened wavelength beam of the second harmonic wave obtained from the harmonic wave generating apparatus to the multilayer printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form a hole.

11. A laser processing apparatus comprising a CO<sub>2</sub> laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions or an X-Y table for displacing the position of a work piece to be processed, wherein the laser beam oscillated from said CO<sub>2</sub> laser source is converted to the shortened wavelength beam by harmonic wave generating means.

12. A laser processing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, harmonic wave generating means for converting the laser beam oscillated from said processing laser source to the shortened wavelength beam of the second harmonic wave, and a scanning head for deflecting the direction of the laser beam to the X-Y directions or an X-Y table for displacing the position

of a work piece to be processed, wherein the wavelength of said processing laser source is between 720nm or less and the minimum wavelength of the laser source or more, or between 6000nm or more and the maximum wavelength of the laser source or less.

5        13. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus, to be used for processing a multilayer printed wiring board having an interlayer resin insulator, comprising:

10        a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning marks of a multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing a multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an  
15        arithmetic operating section, wherein

      said X-Y table is provided with a light source embedded to the area corresponding to the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board.

20        14. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus, to be used for processing a multilayer printed wiring board having an interlayer resin insulator, comprising a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning marks of a multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y  
25        table for placing a multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section, wherein

said X-Y table is provided with a light source embedded at the area corresponding to the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board;

the processing data is input from the input section and  
5 this processing data is stored in the memory section;

silhouette generated when the light beam from the light source of the X-Y table is shielded by the positioning mark is read by the camera to measure the position of the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y  
10 table;

the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table is generated from the measured position and the input processing data in the arithmetic operating section, and the drive data is stored in the memory section; and

15 the drive data is read from the memory section and then the X-Y table and the scanning head are controlled in the control section and thereby the laser beam is radiated to the multilayer printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form the hole.

20 15. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said light source is an LED.

25 16. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method utilizing a manufacturing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board and an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board to be provided with a light source embedded to the area



corresponding to the positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, comprising the steps of:

forming the positioning mark and an interlayer insulating agent layer on the multilayer printed wiring board;

5 inputting the processing data to said manufacturing apparatus;

reading, with a camera, a silhouette which has generated when the light beam from the light source of said X-Y table is shielded by said positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y table to measure the position of positioning mark of the multilayer printed wiring board;

generating the data for driving the scanning head and the X-Y table from the measured position and said input processing data; and

15 controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head on the basis of said drive data and radiating the laser beam to the multilayer printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form a hole.

17. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method according to claim 16, wherein said light source is an LED.

18. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the positioning mark of an upper layer is deviated, when it is formed, from the positioning mark of a lower layer in the step of forming the positioning mark and the interlayer insulating agent layer on said multilayer printed wiring board.

19. A laser processing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of

laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the positioning mark of a work piece to be processed, an X-Y table for placing the work piece, an input section for inputting the processing data of the work piece, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section, wherein said X-Y table is provided with a light source embedded to the area corresponding to the positioning mark of the work piece.

20. A laser processing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions and an X-Y table for placing a work piece to process said work piece with the laser beam by controlling the X-Y table and the scanning head, wherein at least two or more scanning heads are provided, a beam splitter is provided between said processing laser source and an optical path of the scanning head and the laser beam is distributed by this beam splitter to supply to each scanning head.

21. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus, to be used for processing a multilayer printed wiring board having an interlayer resin insulator, comprising:

a processing laser source, a scanning head for deflecting the laser beam in the X-Y directions, a camera for reading the target marks of a multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing a multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an arithmetic operating section, wherein

the processing data is input from the input section and this processing data is stored in the memory section;

position of the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board placed on the X-Y table is measured with the camera;

5

data to drive the scanning head and the X-Y table is generated from the measured position and the input processing data in the arithmetic section and this drive data is then stored in the memory section; and

10 the drive data is read from the memory section and then the X-Y table and the scanning head are controlled in the control section and thereby the laser beam is radiated to the multilayer printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form the hole,

15 said manufacturing apparatus being provided with at least two or more scanning heads, a beam splitter provided between said processing laser source and an optical path of the scanning head, the beam splitter distributing and supplying the laser beam to each scanning head.

20 22. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein when a hole for via hole is not bored with the other scanning head on the occasion of forming the hole for via hole with the laser beam via only one scanning head, the relevant other scanning head scans the  
25 area outside the processing object region of a multilayer printed wiring board with the laser beam.

23. The multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus according to claim 20 or 21, wherein one transfer mask is arranged between said processing laser source and said beam

splitter.

24. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus according to claim 20 or 21, wherein a transfer mask is respectively arranged between said beam splitter and each  
5 scanning head.

25. A multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

forming a target mark on a multilayer printed wiring board having an interlayer resin insulator;

10 placing the multilayer printed wiring board having formed said target mark on the X-Y table of the multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus comprising a processing laser source, at least two or more scanning heads for deflecting the direction of laser beam to the X-Y directions, a camera for  
15 reading the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, an X-Y table for placing the multilayer printed wiring board, an input section for inputting the processing data of the multilayer printed wiring board, a memory section for storing the processing data or the arithmetic operations result and an  
20 arithmetic operating section, and then inputting the processing data to this manufacturing apparatus;

measuring, with the camera, the position of the target mark of the multilayer printed wiring board, generating the data for driving the scanning heads and the X-Y table from the  
25 measured position and the input processing data in the arithmetic operating section and storing this drive data to the memory section; and

reading the drive data from the memory section and controlling the X-Y table and the scanning heads in the control

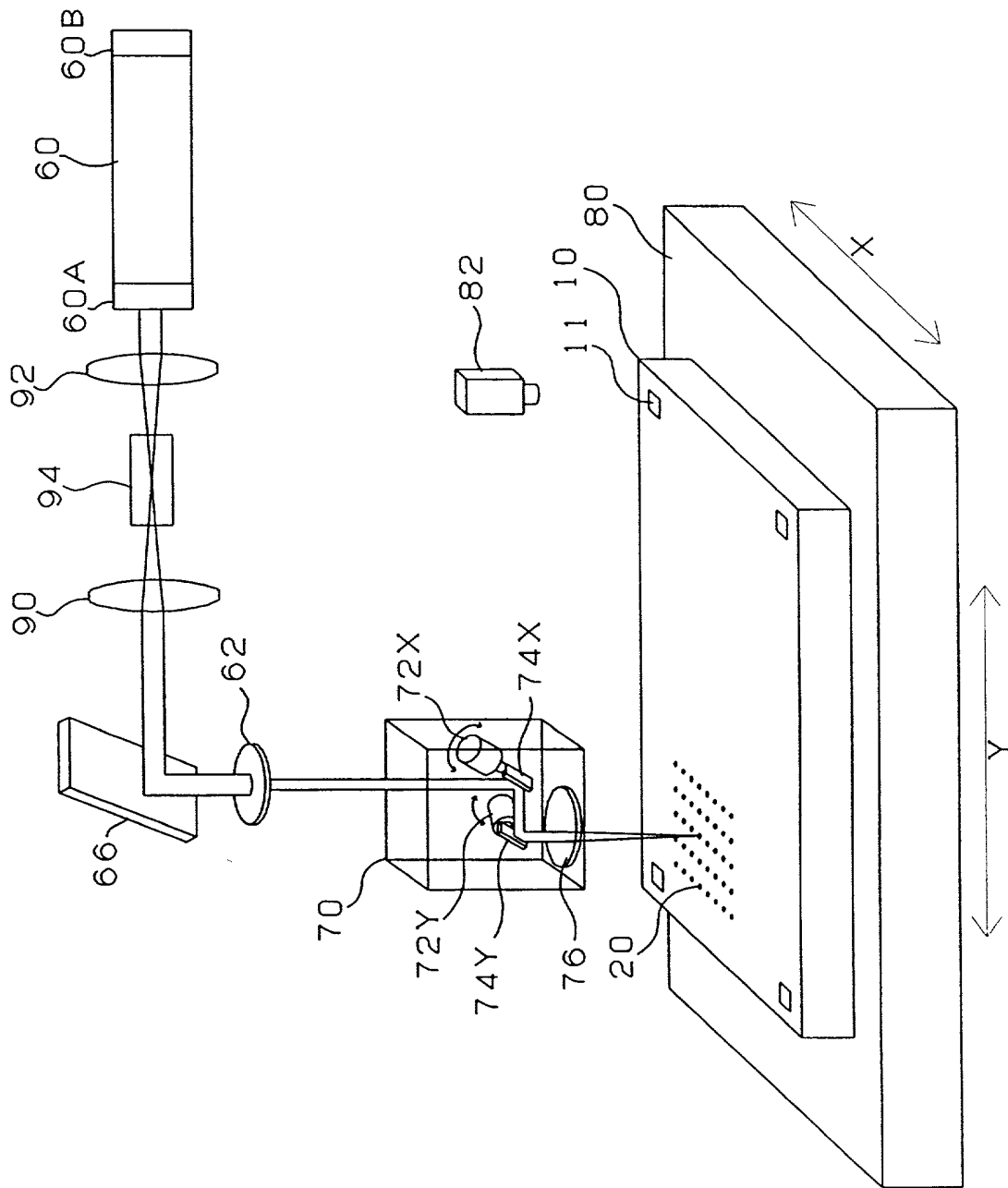
section and radiating the laser beam to the multilayer printed wiring board to eliminate the interlayer resin layer to form the hole for the via hole, wherein

- 5 the laser beam is distributed by a beam splitter arranged between said processing laser source and an optical path of the scanning head and is then supplied said two or more scanning heads.

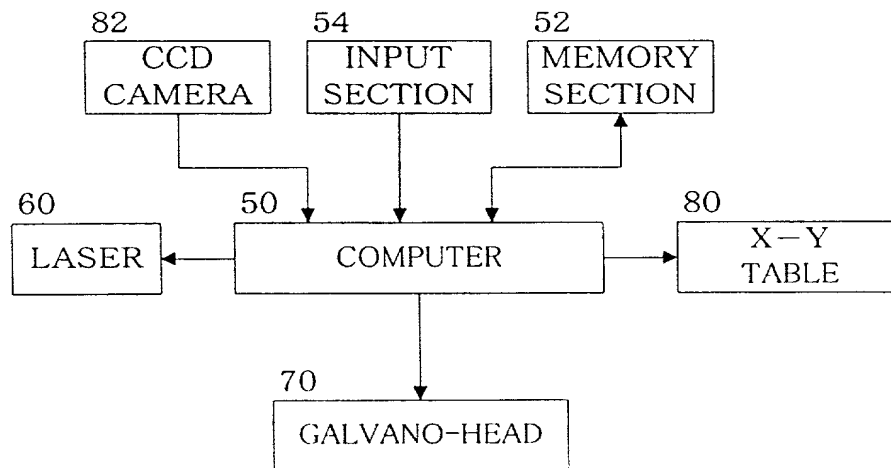
## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is provided a laser processing apparatus, a  
multilayer printed wiring board manufacturing apparatus, and  
5 a manufacturing method to form via holes of ultra-fine diameter.  
The laser beam from the CO<sub>2</sub> laser oscillator (60) is converted  
to the shortened wavelength beam by a tellurium crystal (94)  
to control diffraction of the laser beam. Simultaneously, when  
the laser beam is condensed, a limit value of the condensation  
10 limit is reduced. Thereby, the spot diameter of laser beam is  
reduced and a hole for via hole is bored on the interlayer  
insulation resin on a substrate (10). Therefore, even when the  
laser beam output is raised to form a deeper hole, the hole  
diameter is not widened and thereby a hole for a small diameter  
15 via hole can be formed.

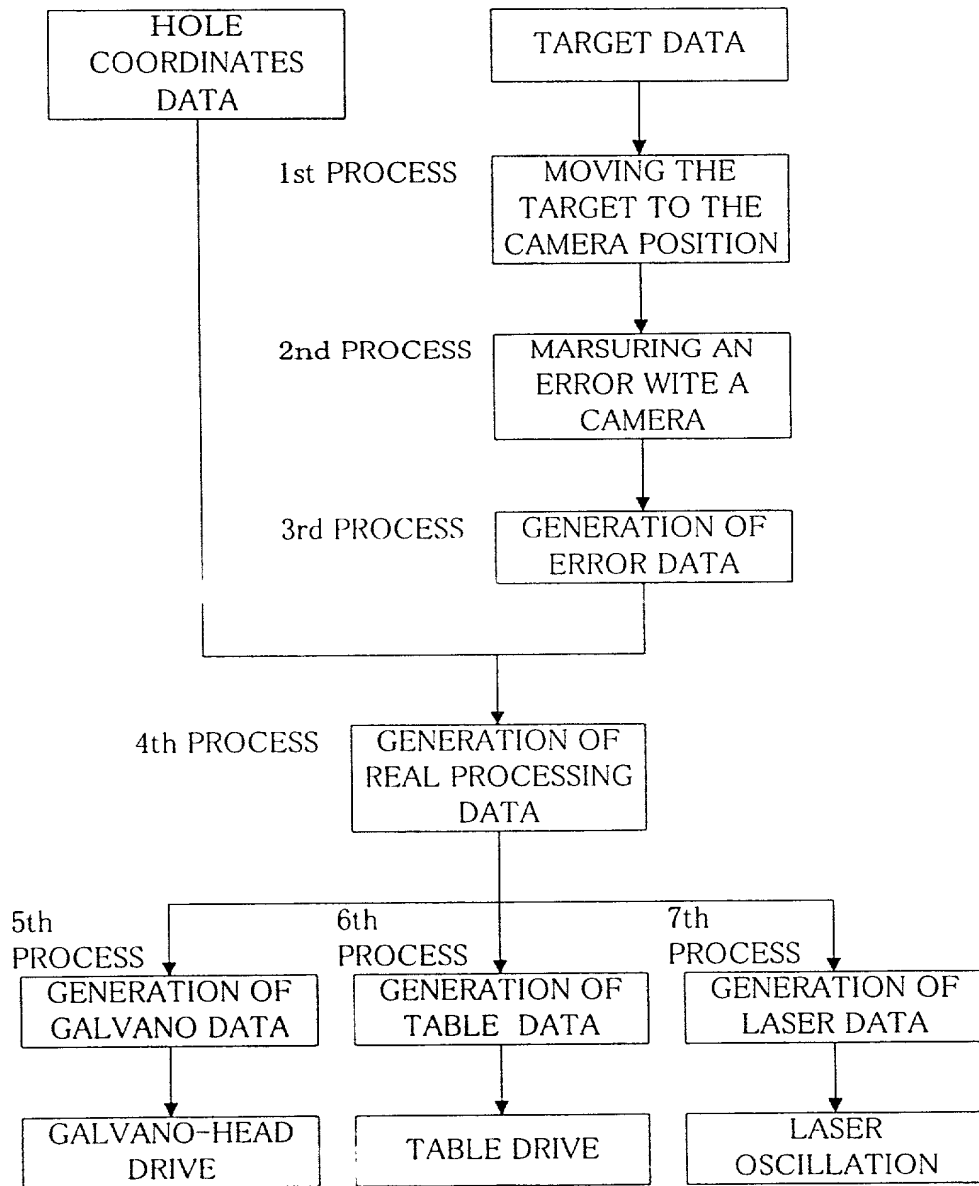
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FIG. 1



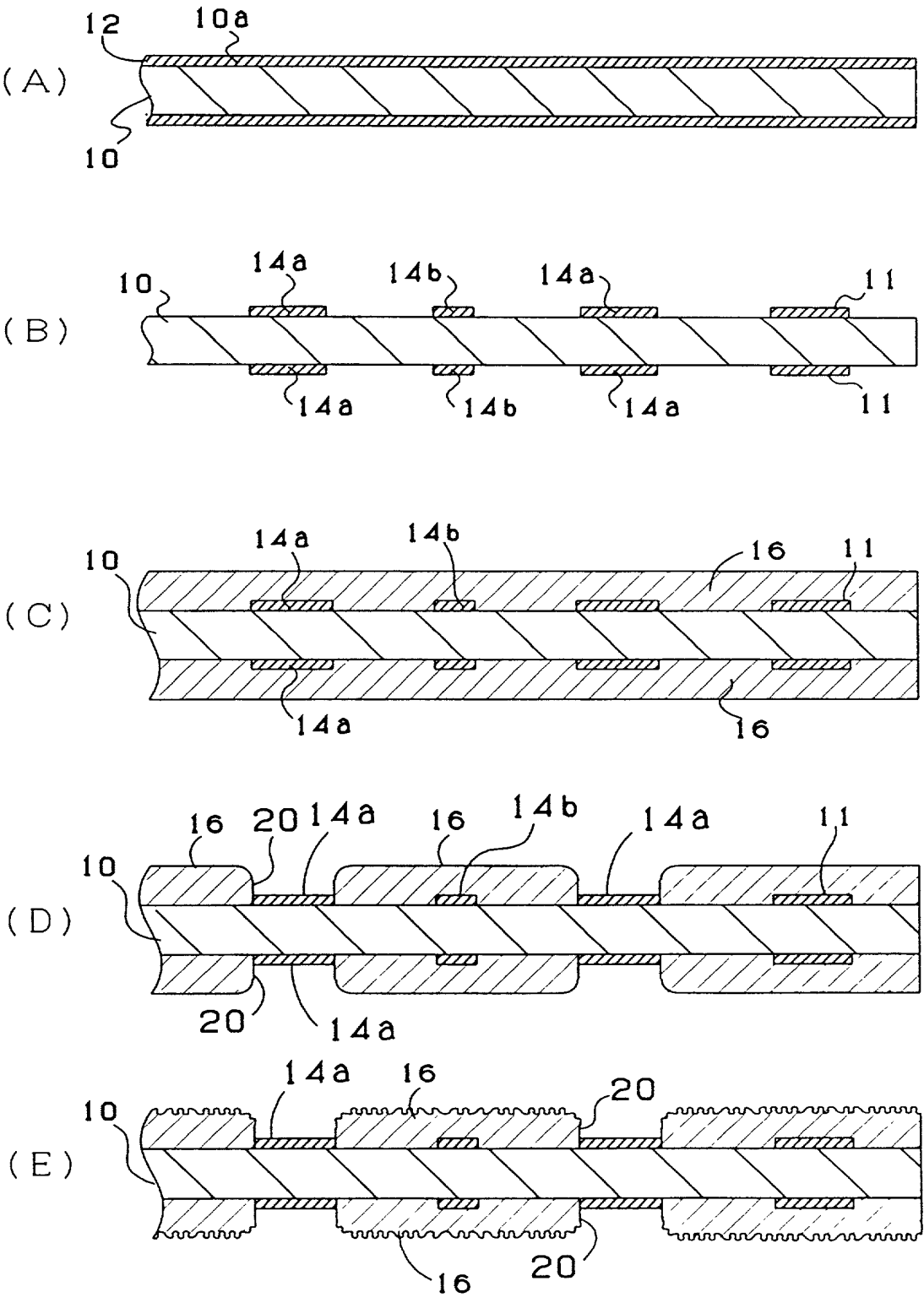
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Fig. 2

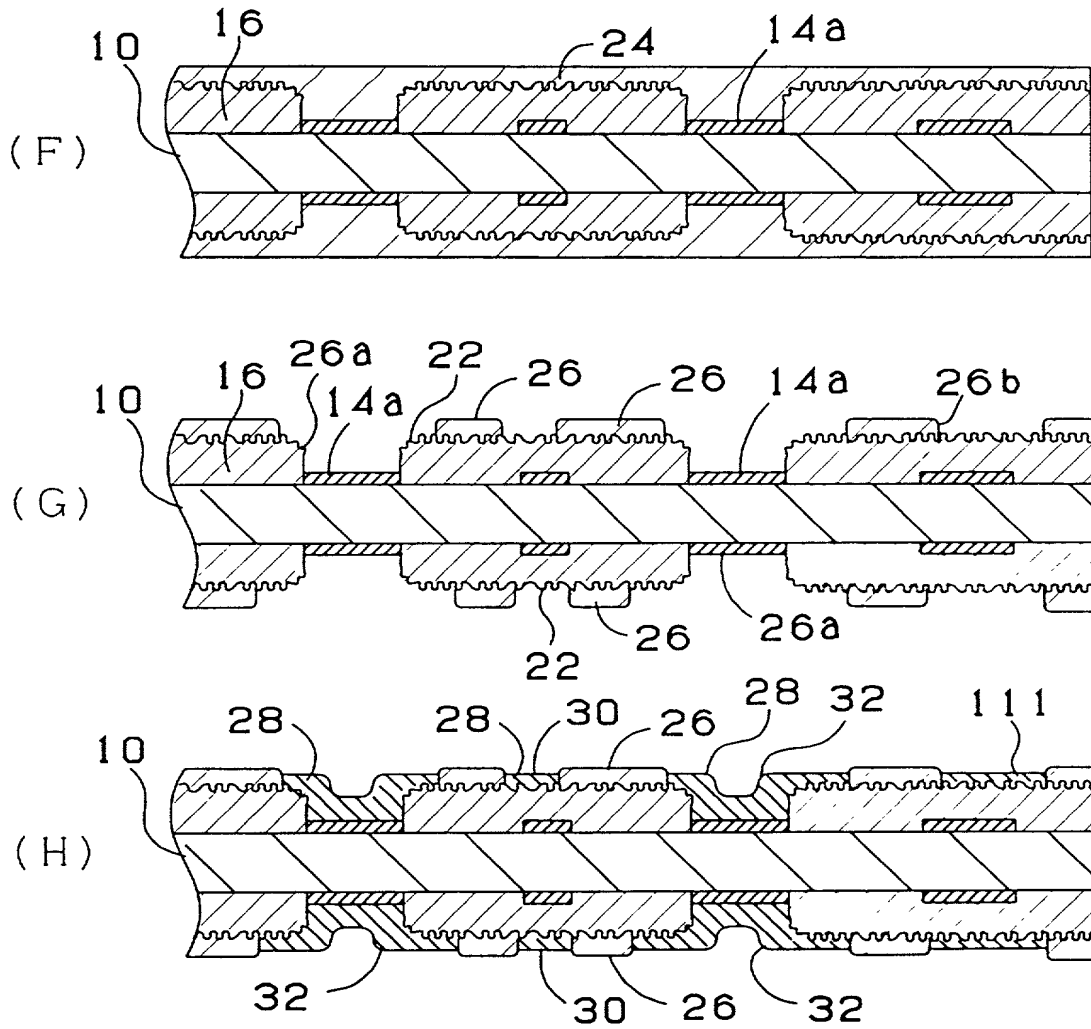


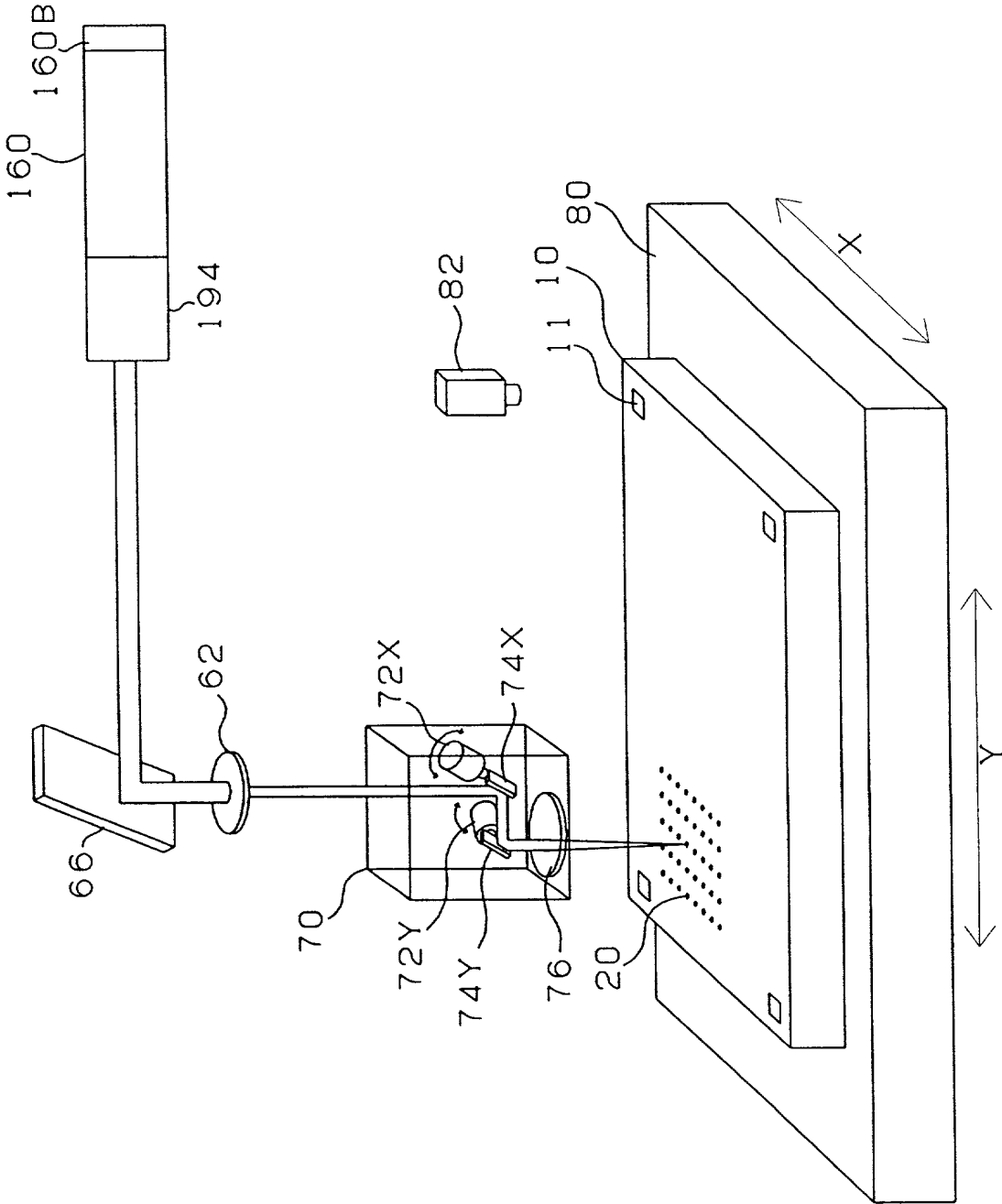


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Fig. 3

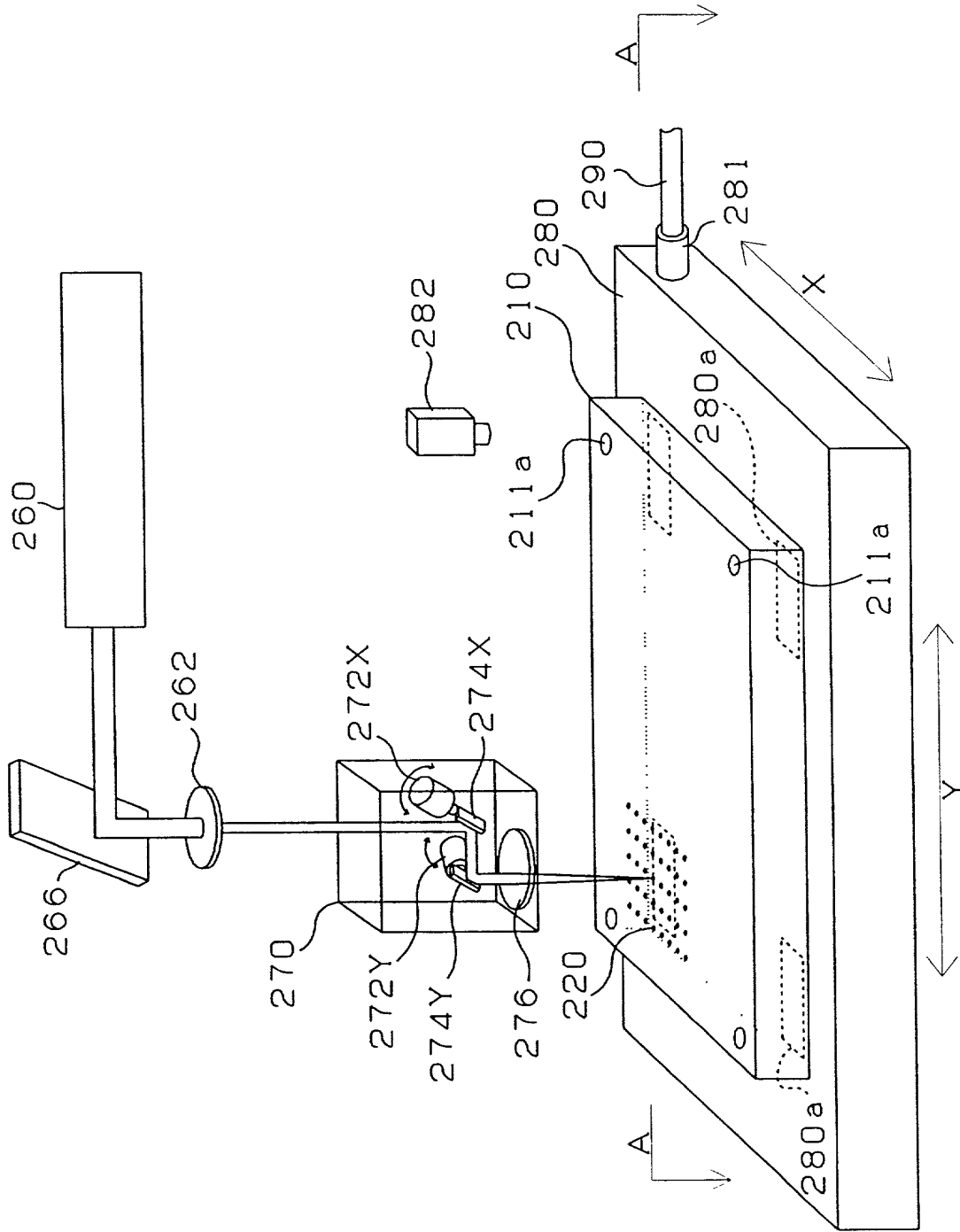
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FIG. 4



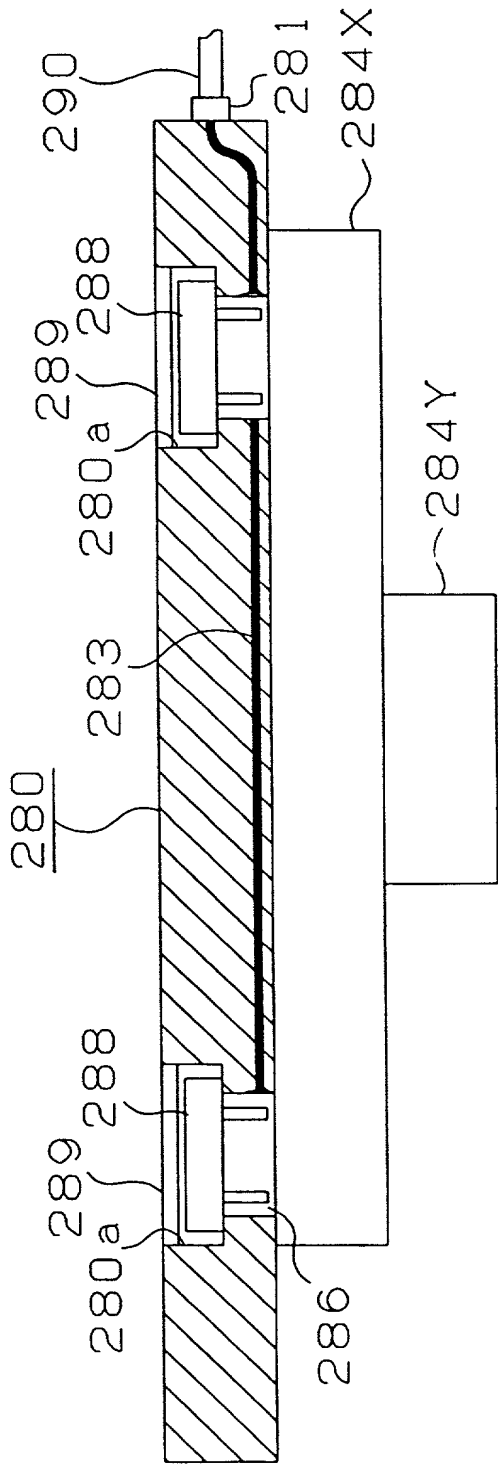
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FIG. 5

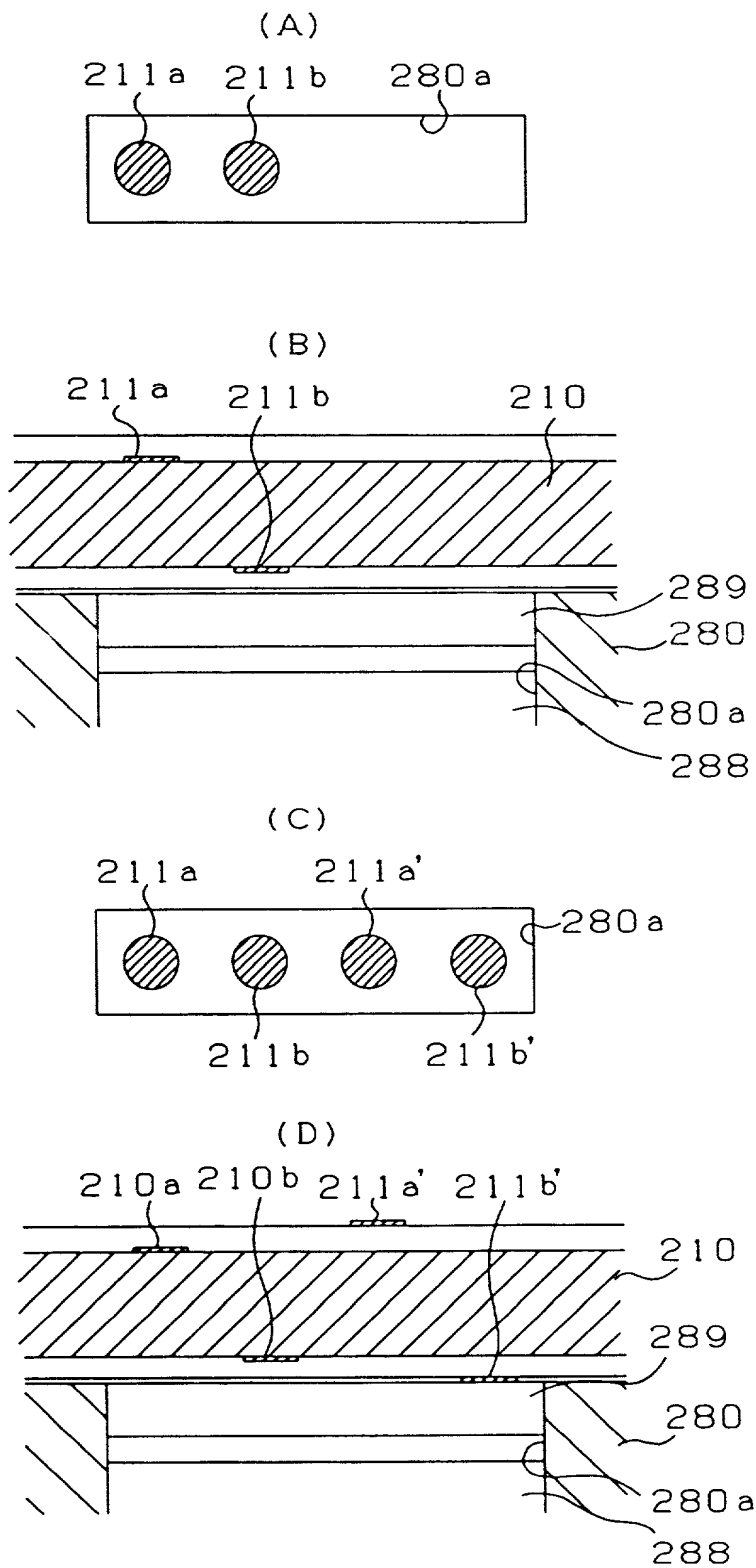


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FIG. 7

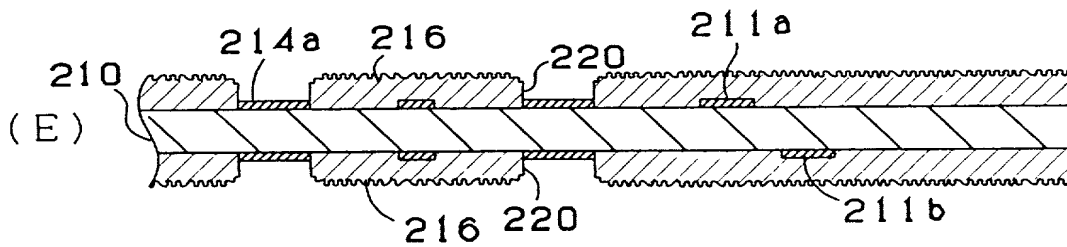
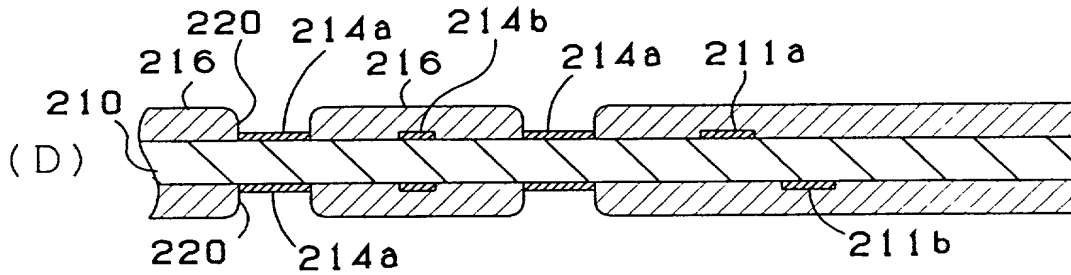
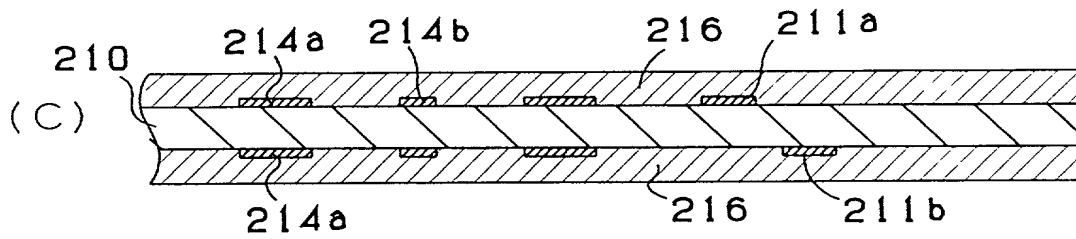
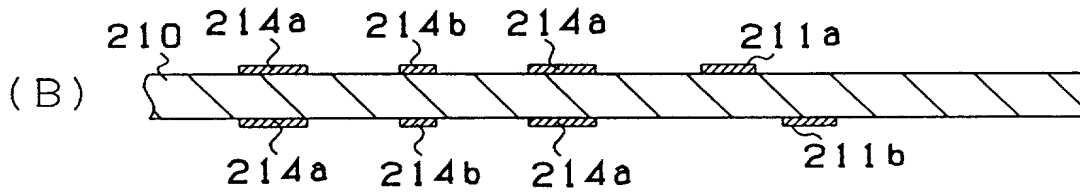
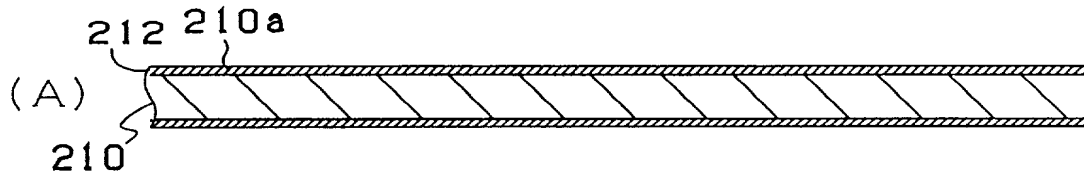


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FIG. 8



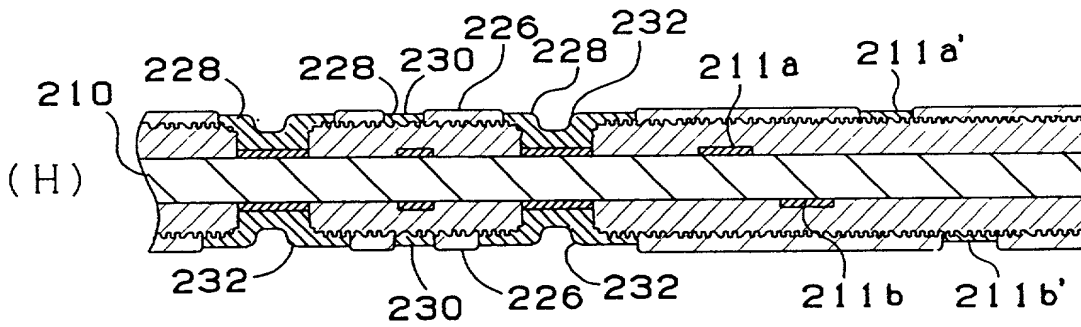
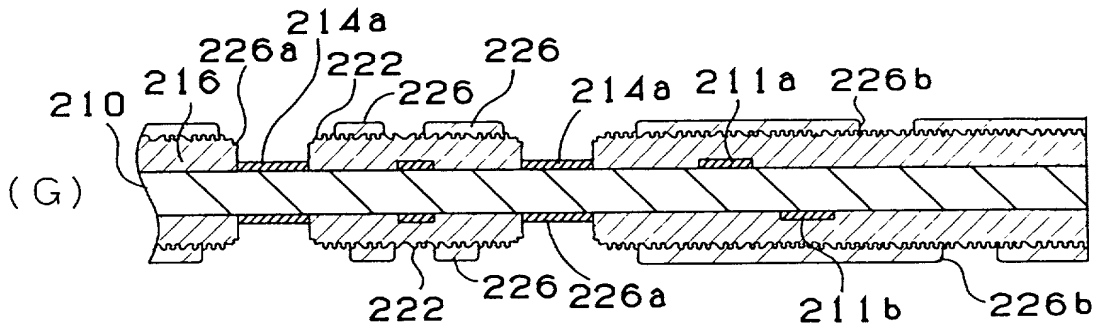
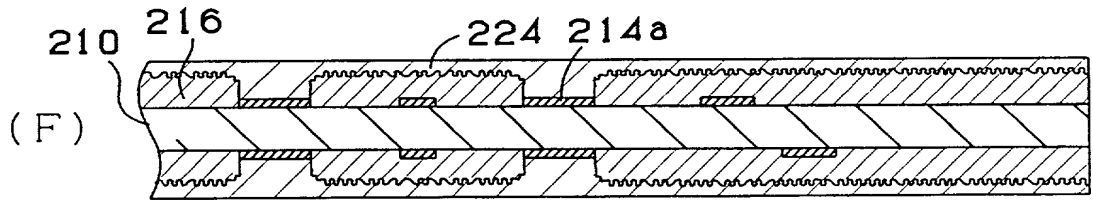
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FIG. 9

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FIG. 10

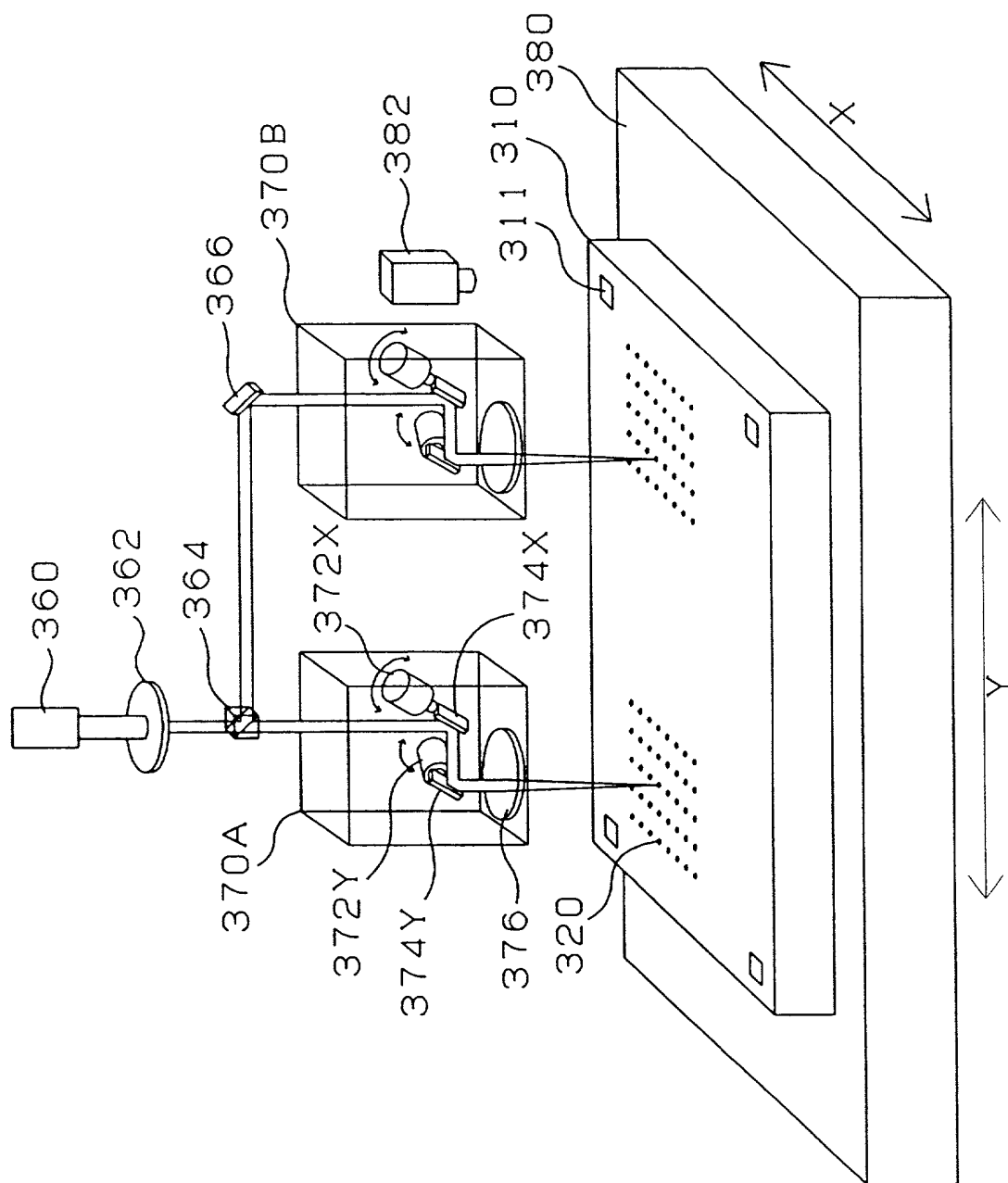


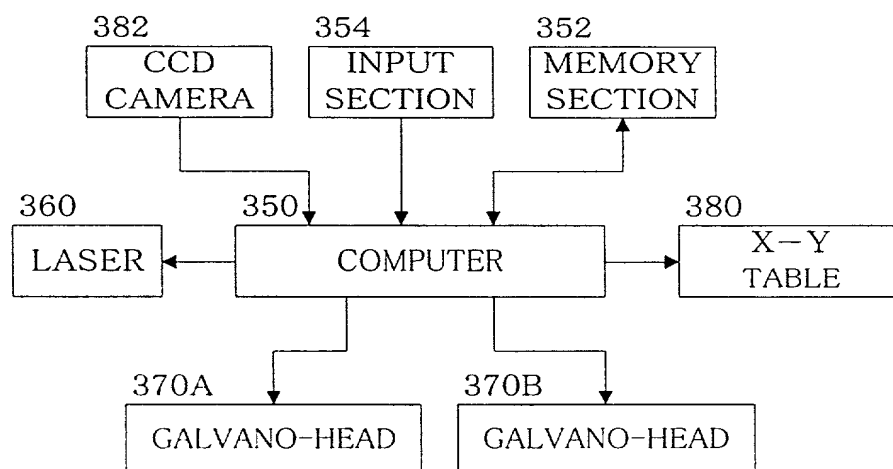


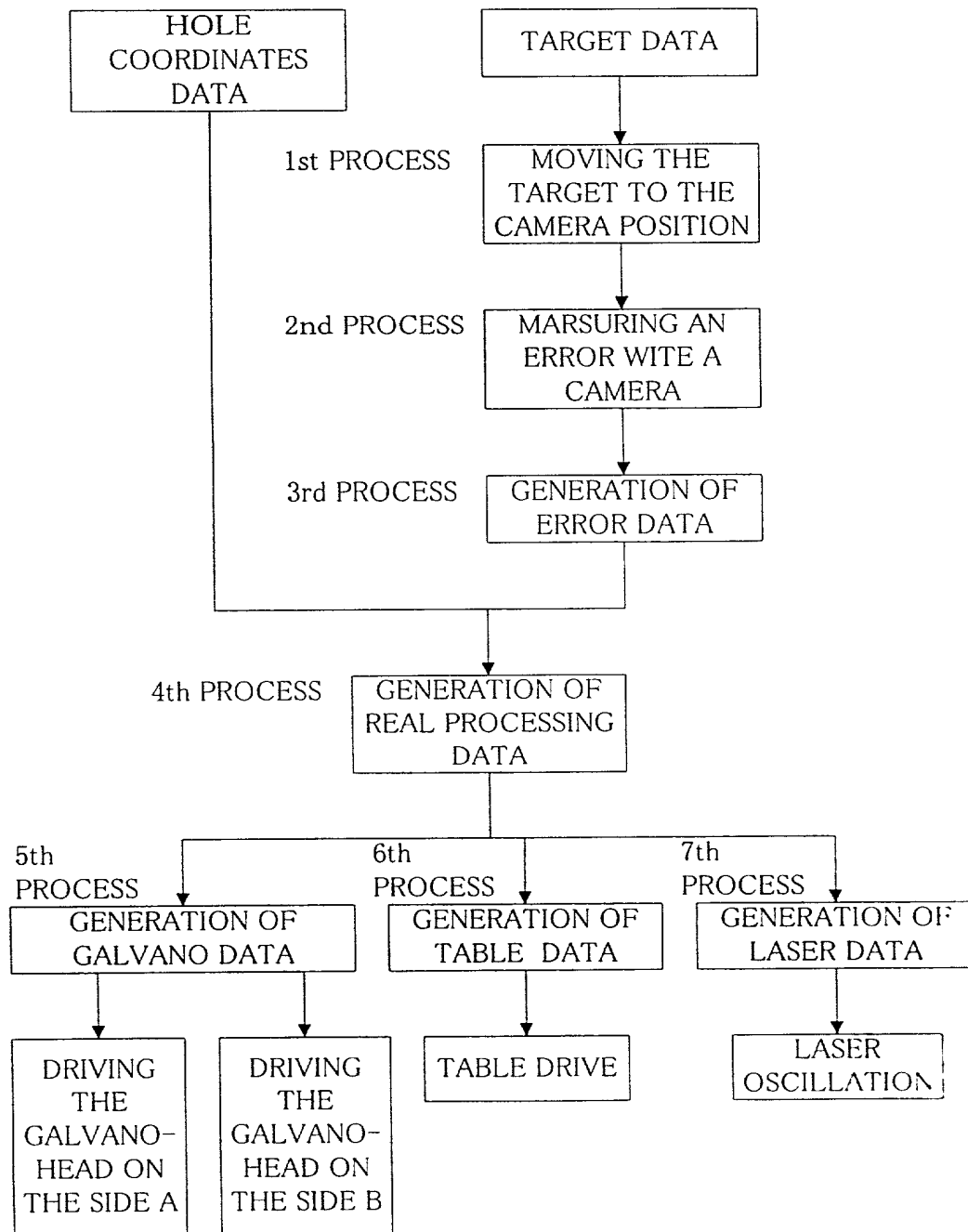
11/17  
FIG. 11

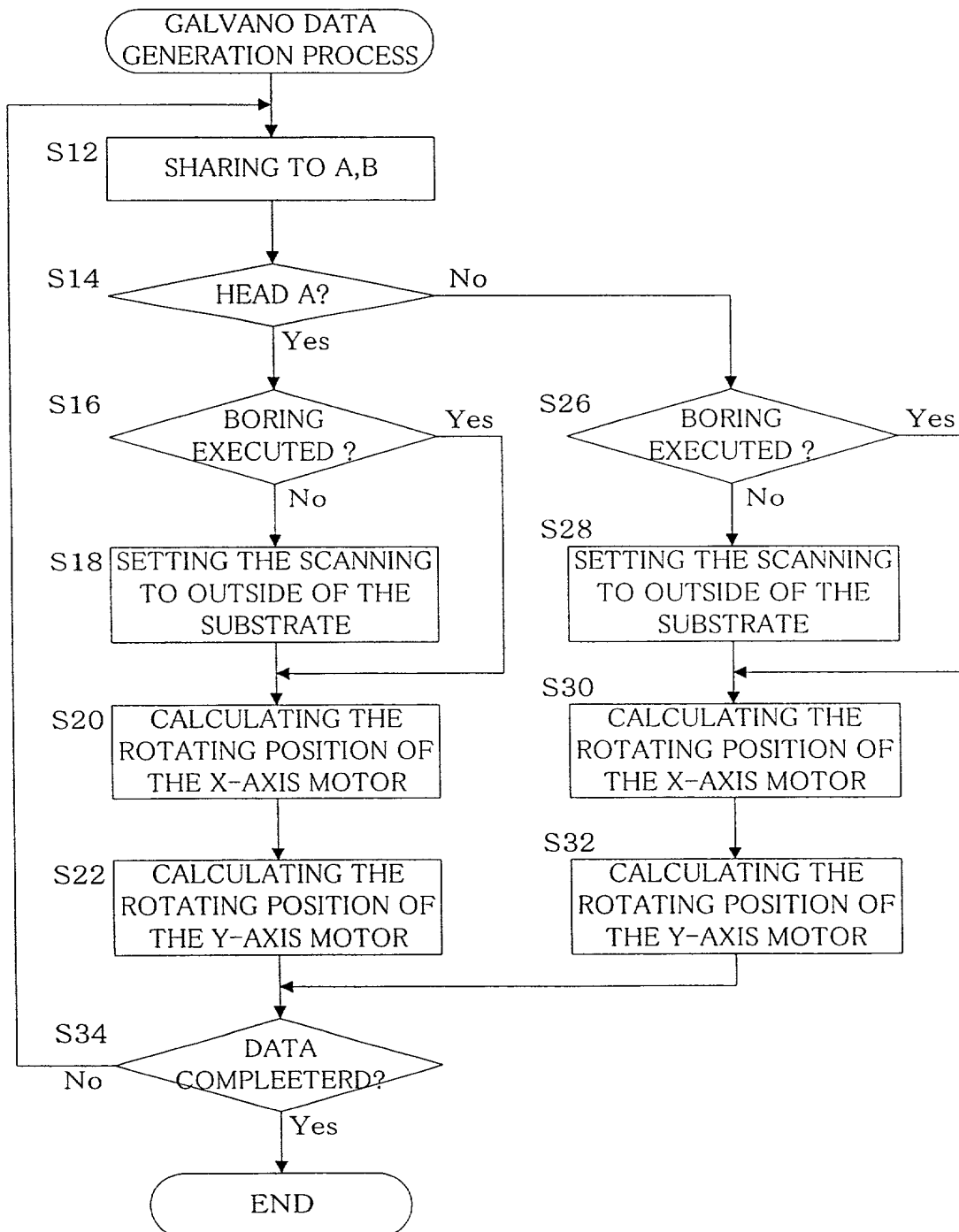


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FIG. 12

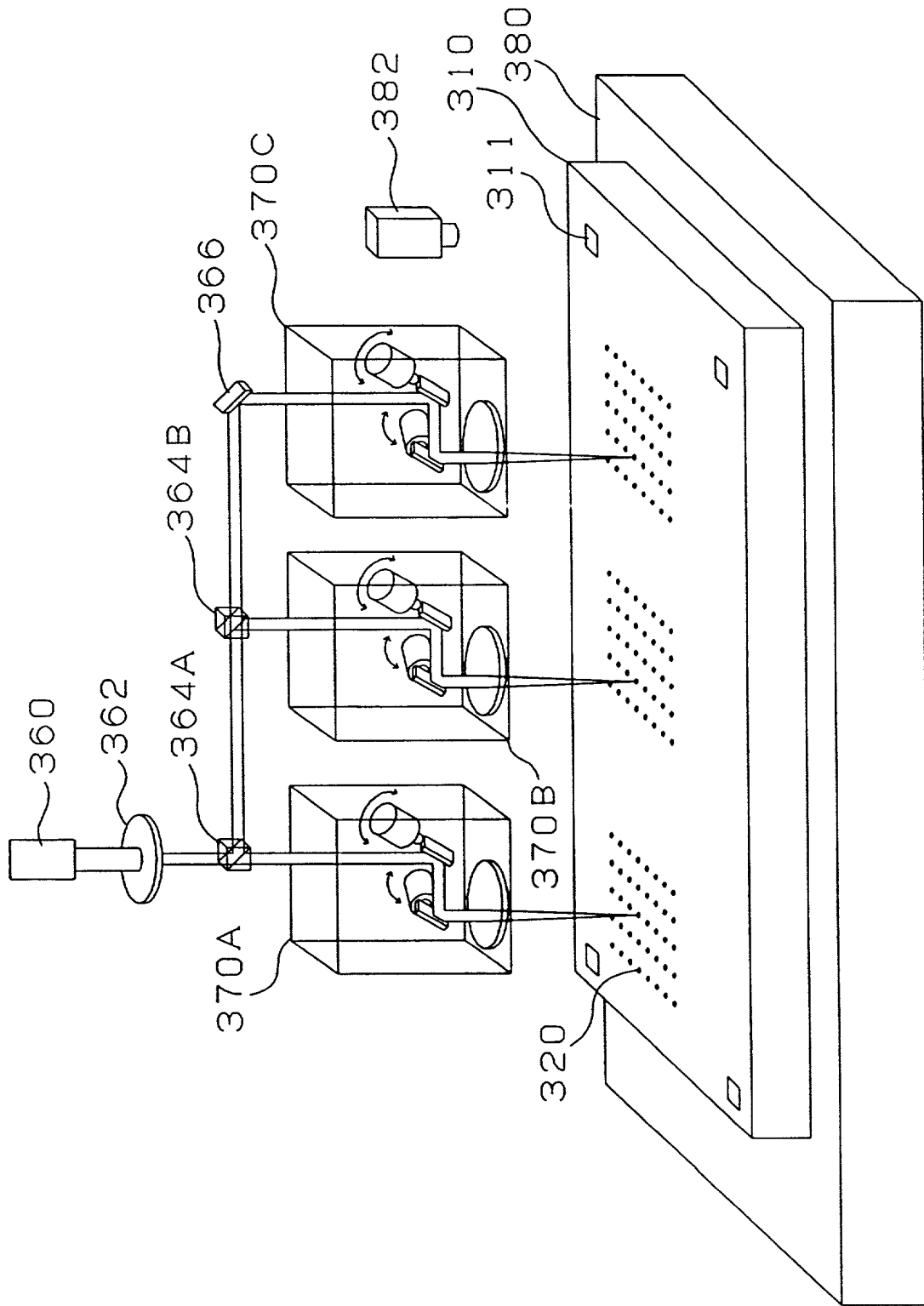


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Fig. 13

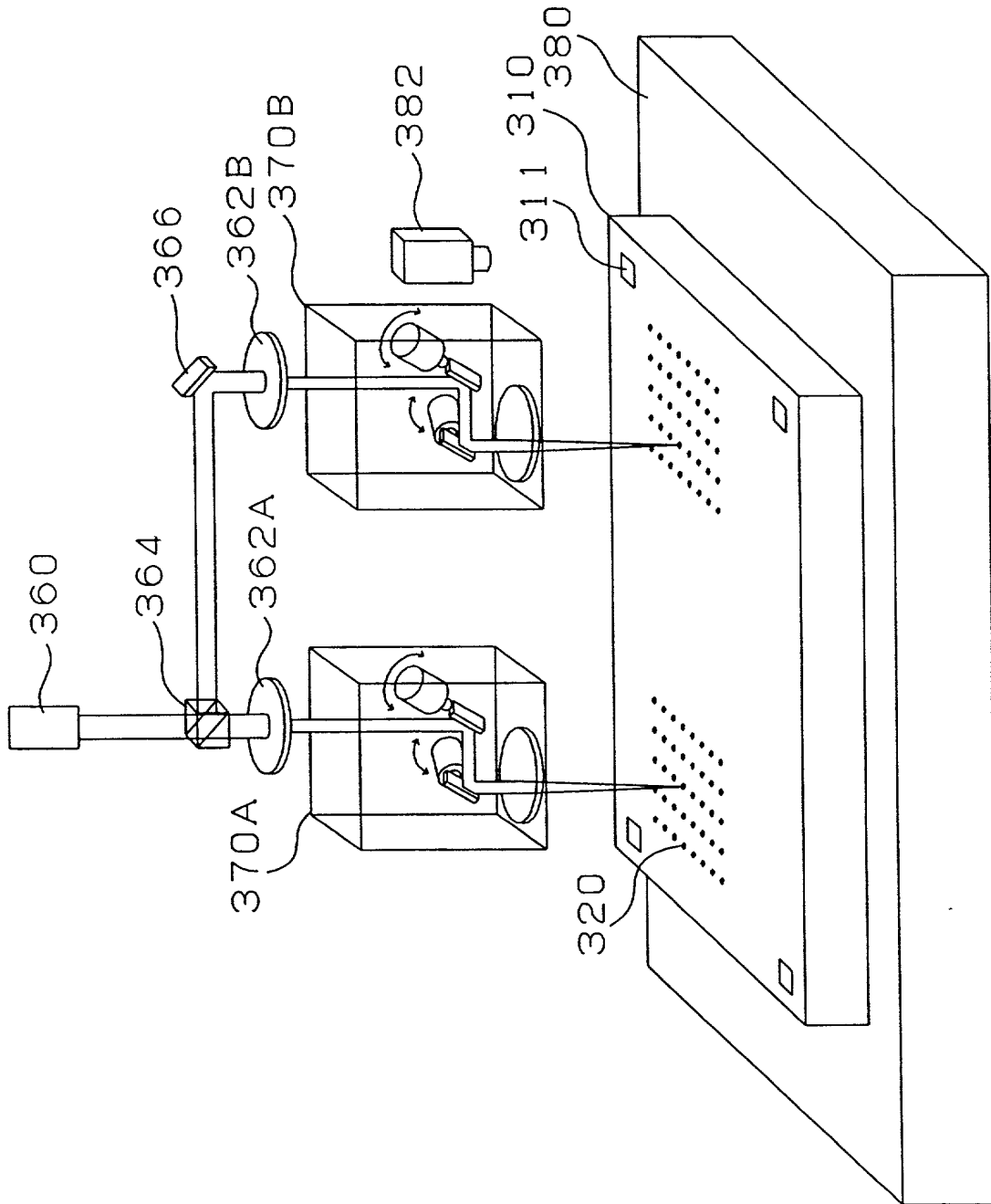
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Fig. 14

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Fig. 15

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FIG. 16



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FIG. 17



**FOR UTILITY/DESIGN  
CIP/PCT NATIONAL/PLANT  
ORIGINAL/SUBSTITUTE/SUPPLEMENTAL  
DECLARATIONS**

**RULE 63 (37 C.F.R. 1.63)  
DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR PATENT APPLICATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**PM & S  
FORM**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, and I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the **INVENTION ENTITLED LASER MACHINING APPARATUS, AND APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A MULTILAYERED PRINTED WIRING BOARD**

the specification of which (CHECK applicable BOX(ES))  
☒ X ☐ is attached hereto.  
 BOX(ES) ☒ was filed on July 17, 1998 as U.S. Application No. /  
☒ was filed as PCT International Application No. PCT/JP97/04168 on November 14, 1997  
 and (if applicable to U.S. or PCT application) was amended on /

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing date of this application:

**PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)**

Number	Country	Day/MONTH/Year Filed
08-326091	JAPAN	20 November 1996
08-326092	JAPAN	20 November 1996
08-358910	JAPAN	27 December 1996
08-358911	JAPAN	27 December 1996

**Date first Laid-**

**open or Published**

**Date Patented**

**or Granted**

**Priority Claimed**

**Yes No**

			X	
			X	
			X	
			X	

I hereby claim domestic priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119/120/365 of the indicated United States applications listed below and PCT international applications listed above or below and, if this is a continuation-in-part (CIP) application, insofar as the subject matter disclosed and claimed in this application is in addition to that disclosed in such prior applications, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of each such prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

**PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL, NONPROVISIONAL AND/OR PCT APPLICATION(S)**

**Application No. (series code/serial no.)**

**Day/MONTH/Year Filed**

**Status**

**pending, abandoned, patented**

**Priority Claimed**

**Yes No**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint Pillsbury Madison & Sutro LLP, Intellectual Property Group, 1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Ninth Floor, East Tower, Washington, D.C. 20005-3918, telephone number (202) 861-3000 (to whom all communications are to be directed), and the below-named persons (of the same address) individually and collectively my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and with the resulting patent, and I hereby authorize them to delete names/numbers below of persons no longer with their firm and to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct the above firm and/or a below attorney in writing to the contrary.

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George M. Sirilla	18221	Michelle N. Lester	32331	Ruth N. Morduch	31044		

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Date: Aug. 6, 1998

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Post Office Address			
(include Zip Code)			

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First		Middle Initial		Family Name	
Residence					
City		State/Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship		
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(FOR ADDITIONAL INVENTORS, check box ☐ to attach PAT 116-2 same information for each re signature, name, date, citizenship, residence and address.)